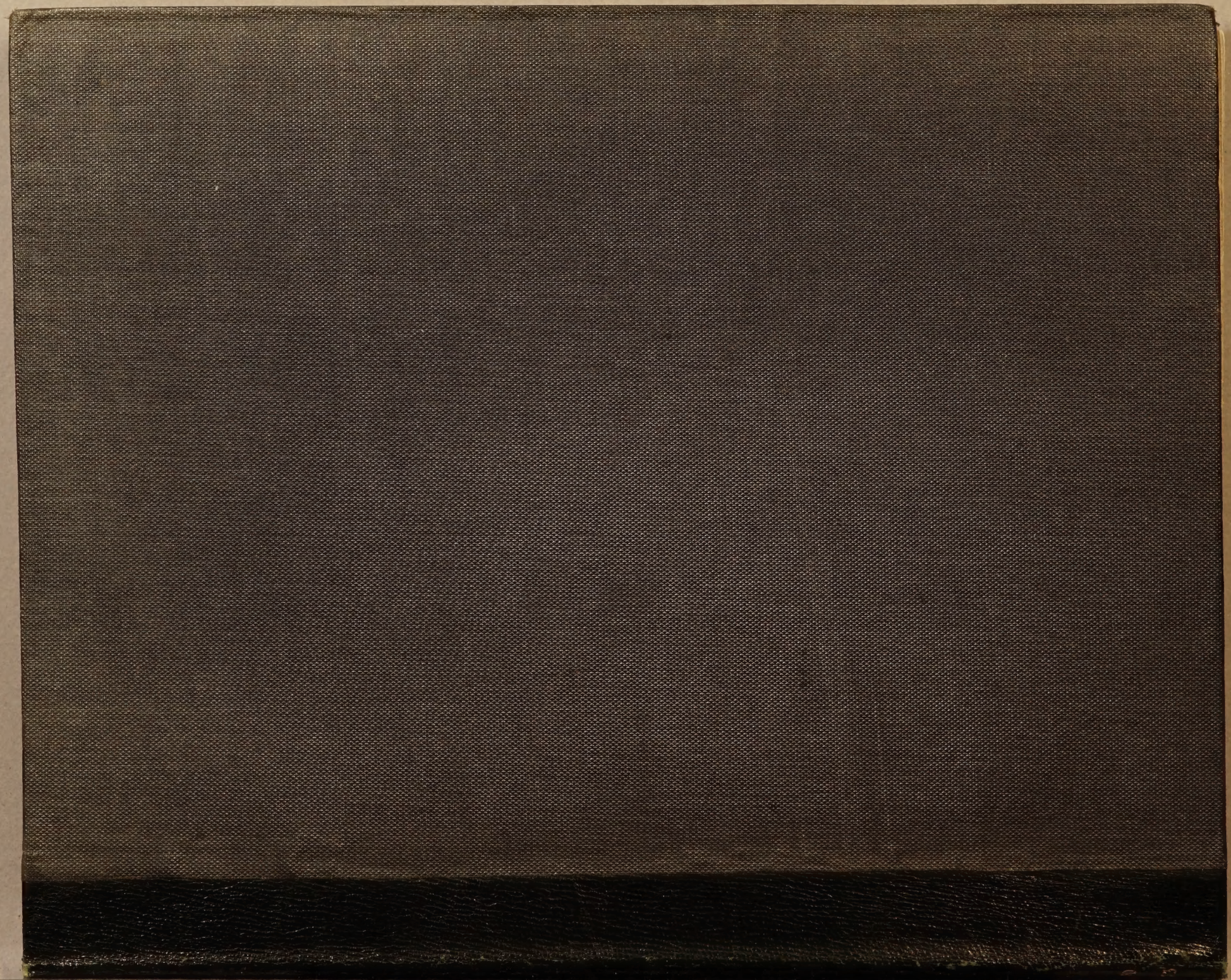


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John Carter Brown.

1773 N°7
78

AUTHENTIC PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

EXPEDITION AGAINST THE CHARIBBS,

AND THE

SALE OF LANDS

IN THE

ISLAND OF ST. VINCENT.

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AUTHENTIC PAPERS.

Memorial of WILLIAM YOUNG, *Esq; first Commissioner for the Sale of Lands in the ceded Islands, to the Lords of the Treasury; dated 11th April, 1767.*

Right Honourable Lords,

IN the twentieth instruction, the Commissioners for the sale and disposal of lands, are directed always to take care that no survey of that part of St. Vincent, which is inhabited or claimed by Charibbs, be begun before they shall have received fresh instructions for that purpose, and always to notify to the Governor General of the Grenades and Neutral Islands, or Commander in Chief for the time being, what parts of any of the said islands they intend to have surveyed, that he may assist and protect the persons employed in such service.

This instruction was given in the year 1764, in order to avoid any disturbances that might arrive in St. Vincent from the native Charibbs, whose numbers, dispositions, and settlements were not at that time sufficiently known.

The Commissioners in the course of their duty having since discovered, that the windward side of the island through which the Charibbs are dispersed, is by much the most extensive and finest part of it; and that very small and detached spots only are here and there cleared and settled by them, whilst large tracts through which they are scattered, remained in wood, useless and unoccupied, were desirous that those lands might be surveyed and disposed of in a manner beneficial to his Majesty and the colony. They were the more earnest to get this accomplished, because they apprehend the present situation of these wild and lawless savages was dangerous to his Majesty's subjects already settled in their neighbourhood, and a great impediment to the future population and culture of an island, which they conceived the best of any ceded to the crown by the late peace; for these reasons, they communicated their sentiments to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, and prayed to be instructed how to proceed.

As it seems by no means consistent with his Majesty's clemency, nor indeed the common rights of mankind, that those native Charibbs should be extirpated, it remains to be considered, how they may best

be diſpoſed of, without endangering the peace of the colony, and in a manner productive of their own happineſs, as well as the future improvement of the country. In order that your Lordſhips may receive ſuch information as may be uſeful on this occaſion, it will not perhaps be unneceſſary to give a more particular account of the Charibbs, and the iſland of St. Vincent.

According to the beſt obſervations I have been able to make concerning the Charibbs, their numbers conſiſt of about 2000, including women and children; ſome few of them are of a yellow complexion, deſcended from the original natives, the reſt are the deſcendants of a cargoe of negroes who were brought from Africa, and deſtined for ſale at Barbadoes about a century ago; but the ſhip miſſing that iſland, was wrecked on the coaſt of St. Vincent, and the negroes gaining the ſhore, recovered their former freedom. The yellow Charibbs, who were the original inhabitants, are of an innocent and timid nature, and have been almoſt extirpated by thoſe blacks; thoſe who remain, mix but little with them, and are very apprehenſive of danger from their neighbourhood: the black Charibbs are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from any other negroes, by a cuſtom they have of flattening the foreheads of their infants, in order that their race may be kept diſtinct. They are (excepting ſome few who have been connected with the French) an idle, ignorant, and ſavage people, ſubject to no law or diſcipline, and ſcarcely acknowledging ſubordination to any chief: they ſpeak a jargon of their own, which added to an extreme zealouſly of their liberty, a diſtruſt of thoſe they converſe with, and a little affecting cunning, make it very difficult to diſcourſe or reaſon with them concerning their ſituation, and the arrangements neceſſary to be taken with reſpect to them. They go for the moſt part naked. All the men carry cutlaſſes, and many of them have fowling pieces, which they uſually keep bright, and in good order. They live with their families in thatched hutts, diſperſed through the woods, and are ſo little given to induſtry, that though the ſoil of St. Vincent is perhaps the moſt fertile of any known, they cultivate only little ſpots ſcattered up and down, barely ſufficient to raiſe ſuch proviſions as, added to what fiſh they catch and game they kill, are neceſſary to keep them alive.—Upon their firſt arrival in the iſland, they ſettled themſelves on the weſtern ſide of it, which although the worſt and moſt mountainous part, they preferred on account, no doubt, of the tranquility of the ſea, and the ſafety with which canoes and other ſmall boats may fiſh and approach a leeward ſhore; for the trade wind, almoſt always blowing eaſterly in this region

of

of the globe, occaſions a rough ſurge, and often renders the windward coaſts of theſe iſlands dangerous and difficult of acceſs.

The ſame inducements afterwards prevailed on ſome of the French from the neighbouring iſlands to inſinuate themſelves among them; the ſoil was found ſuperlatively excellent, and others were continually attracted by the ſucceſs of their countrymen, who had gone before them, in ſo much, that when this iſland was taken by his Majeſty's arms in the laſt war, the leeward part of it was found to be extremely well ſettled by four or five thouſand French inhabitants from Martinico. It muſt be obſerved, that theſe ſettlers were at firſt admitted by the conſent of the Charibbs, from whom they obtained grants in lieu of brandy and other ſmall preſents; but having once got a footing, they gradually elbowed them out from the leeward part of the country, which is at preſent inhabited by the remaining French, now become Britiſh ſubjects, and many of his Majeſty's natural born ſubjects, who have become purchaſers and ſettlers therein.

The importance and value of theſe poſſeſſions may be beſt known by an inſpection of the ſales ſent home by the Commiſſioners, which when compared with thoſe of Dominica, will be found to exceed them in more than the proportion of three to one; although the leaſes granted on the part of the crown are nearly equal in both iſlands.

The Commiſſioners have already by ſales and leaſes, &c. (conformable to the King's inſtructions) diſpoſed of this ſide of the country; but it is ſo extremely rugged and broken, that the number of acres of cultivable land contained in it, is much leſs than might otherwiſe be expected; for the internal part of the iſland is formed by a body of rude and impaſſable mountains, which diverging in chains as it were run down the weſtern coaſt, and divide the land into a number of little fruitful valleys, each watered with a rapid ſtream, and ſeparated from the other by large and ſteep hills: the valleys are now planting with canes, and will ſoon become valuable ſugar plantations: the intervening hills are only proper for coffee, cocoa, and proviſions.

The eaſtern, or windward part of the iſland, through which the Charibbs are at preſent irregularly ſcattered in the manner that has been before obſerved; and which the Commiſſioners have prayed inſtructions to ſurvey and diſpoſe of, remains almoſt intirely unoccupied and in wood, but it is by far, more extenſive, more level, and a finer country than the part already diſpoſed of; and as the ſoil is perhaps the beſt in the world, and it is admirably ſupplied with rivers, it would probably ſoon become a more valuable ſugar colony than any poſſeſſed by the

the crown, unleſs Jamaica, which muſt be excepted only on account of its very ſuperior extent. It ſeems the more neceſſary that means ſhould be uſed for its ſpeedy ſettlement, as St. Vincent (which is a ſmall iſland of about twenty-two miles in length, and about fourteen or ſixteen miles broad; is ſituated only eight leagues due ſouth of St. Lucia, and as the leeward ſide of it is too much contracted by the mountains to admit of a ſufficient number of ſettlements and inhabitants to protect it againſt that growing French colony.

Perhaps it may not be amiſs to remark, that the French King, till the late ceſſion of this iſland to the crown of Great Britain, always affected to acknowledge it as the property of the Charibbs, and the latter have accordingly imagined they had the beſt right to it; however, when they perceived the Engliſh repairing thither at the concluſion of the peace, many of them were deſirous of removing to St. Lucia, but they were refuſed admittance by the French Governor.

They do not at this time appear to know what to think of their preſent ſituation, what will be acknowledged theirs, or indeed what to claim; only as they have heard that the Commiſſioners were ordered by the King not to diſpoſe or ſurvey any of the lands inhabited or claimed by them till further orders, and as the utmoſt good faith has been preſerved reſpecting them, they ſeem inclined to require more than they can poſſibly find uſeful, or indeed than they would otherwiſe have preſumed to do. As matters now are, they certainly appear fit objects of his Majeſty's clemency, and perhaps it were a curious ſpeculation how beſt to diſpoſe of them conſiſtent with their own happineſs, the peace and ſafety of the preſent Britiſh ſubjects, ſettled in the iſland along with them, and the future population and culture of the colony.

If I may be allowed to ſpeak my opinion, the ſooner ſomething is determined on this head, the better; and as the iſland has been ceded in full right to his Majeſty, and it is not to be ſuppoſed that ſo ſmall a ſpot is, or can be conjointly held between the King of Great-Britain and its native ſavages, I beg leave to ſubmit to your Lordſhips conſideration the following propoſitions:

Firſt, That inſtructions be forthwith ſent out to the Governor General of the Grenades, or in his abſence, to the commander in chief for the time being, and to the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, and alſo to his Majeſty's Commiſſioners for the ſale and diſpoſal of lands to the following effect; that means be contrived, that it may be known as ſpeedily and generally as poſſible among the Charibbs, that the King is graciouſly pleaſed to conſider them as his loving ſubjects, and will protect

tect them in their freedom while they continue to demean themſelves faithfully and peaceably, ſubmitting themſelves to be governed by the laws of Great-Britain, or ſuch laws as may hereafter be in force in the country, reſpecting free negroes or otherwiſe.

And that moreover, his Majeſty has commanded his Commiſſioners to ſurvey and diſpoſe of, with all convenient ſpeed, all the lands ſituated and lying between the river Rebechi, windward to Grandeſable, and ſo round to Chateau Bellair. But that they are alſo directed to allot ſuch lands as they ſhall judge convenient and ſufficient to be allotted for the uſe, and as the property of the Charibbs, free mulattoes, and negroes now reſiding in St. Vincent, having regard always, in making theſe arrangements, to the future culture, population, and ſecurity of the iſland, as well as the comfort and ſatisfaction of the Charibbs themſelves, who are expected to aid and aſſiſt the Commiſſioners and Surveyors in the performance of this neceſſary work; but will incur the King's heavy diſpleaſure and ſevere chaſtiſement, if they attempt to oppoſe them, in the execution of his commands, ſo eſſential to their own happineſs, and to that of his faithful ſubjects in the ſame iſland: for which purpoſes the neceſſary orders are given to the Governors and Commanders of his Majeſty's fleets and armies in that part of the world, ſhould they prove diſobedient or refractory, contrary to his juſt expectation and the favorable accounts he has hitherto received concerning them, from his Governors and Commiſſioners.

The Governor ſhould alſo be inſtructed, that if it be found neceſſary, he is to aſſiſt and protect the Surveyors, and others employed in the ſervice.

Secondly, At the ſame time that inſtructions, to the effect juſt mentioned, are ſent out to the Governors, *&c.* inſtructions to the following purport might be diſpatched to the Commiſſioners.

Forthwith to ſurvey and diſpoſe of, in a manner conformable to their former inſtructions, all the cultivable lands, ſituated between the river Rebechi, windward, to Grandeſable and ſo round Chateau Bellair, and to cauſe the ſeveral allotments to be laid out and diſpoſed of, in the quickeſt and leaſt expenſive method that can be contrived, conſiſtent with the ſpirit of their inſtructions.

To allot ſuch lands as they ſhall judge convenient and ſufficient to be allotted for the uſe, and as the property of the Charibbs, free mulattoes, and free negroes, now reſiding in St. Vincent, having regard always in making theſe arrangements to the future culture, population and ſecurity of the iſland, as well as the comfort and ſatisfaction of the

Charibbs themſelves, whom his Majeſty is pleaſed to conſider as his adopted ſubjects, and are to be provided for with the utmoſt humanity, and protected as long as they continue to demean themſelves faithfully and peaceably.

In the courſe of this duty whenever it is judged neceſſary, for his Majeſty's ſervice, or the ſafety and importance of the colony that the Charibbs ſhall be removed from their preſent huts and cleared grounds to ſome other part of the country, good, proper, and ſufficient woodlands ſhall be allotted them in lieu thereof, and the Charibbs ſhall be permitted to continue to reſide on their preſent cleared lands, until they ſhall have gathered all their proviſions, built huts, and cleared and planted their other lands, allotted in lieu thereof; for which purpoſe five years ſhall be allowed them from the date of theſe inſtructions, unleſs they are contented to remove themſelves ſooner.

That in ſuch caſes their former cleared lands are to be comprized in, and ſold with the plantation allotment of woodlands ſurrounding them, as contiguous as may happen to be moſt convenient, and on the removal of the Charibbs are to become the property of the perſon poſſeſſed of ſuch ſurrounding, or contiguous plantation and not before.

That in conſideration of theſe arrangements made, and the future removal of the Charibbs, they ſhall be paid for theſe cleared lands, ſo comprized and ſold as before, at the rate of four Johannes, or 13l. 4s. currency per acre, according to ſurvey, or the faireſt computation that can be made, if ſuch ſurvey cannot expeditiouſly enough be executed.

That this money ſhall be paid them by the Receiver in two payments, the firſt whenever the cleared lands ſhall be ſold, the ſecond at the expiration of five years from the date hereof; or ſooner if he ſhall receive the certificate from the purchaſer, that the Charibbs are actually and voluntarily removed.

That theſe cleared lands ſhall be put up at auction, at a price not leſs than 10l. ſterling per acre, and that the money to be paid by the purchaſer for theſe cleared lands, according to the price they may happen to ſell for at auction, ſhall be paid to the Receiver; one half down, the other half at the expiration of five years, or when he ſhall receive a certificate that the Charibbs are actually removed. But the woodlands are to be paid for according to the uſual inſtallments.

That the woodlands to be allotted to the Charibbs ſhall pay no quitrent, and that they ſhall not be alienable to any white perſon, but poſſeſſed by themſelves and ſucceſſors in the manner they ſhall think fit

fit to agree, provided always that they continue to demean themſelves peaceably and like good ſubjects.

And laſtly, that the Commiſſioners ſhall give a certificate to the Charibbs, of the ſituation and quantity of land allotted them, which may be by ſurvey, or to ſave time and expence, by fair computation; and that theſe lands ſo allotted them, ſhall be held by the Charibbs in families, or ſuch manner as ſhall appear moſt to their ſatisfaction, and according to their cuſtoms.

That a liſt of theſe Charibbs, and their families, and of the lands they hold by certificate, ſhall be tranſmitted by the Commiſſioners to the Governor in chief and Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent, who ſhall receive their declarations of fidelity to the King, as they happen to come in, and affix the great ſeal, if thought neceſſary, to the Commiſſioners certificate of the lands they hold, but that no fee whatſoever ſhall be taken by the Commiſſioners, or Governor, or any perſon, from the Charibbs for any thing they do in conſequence of theſe inſtructions.

Having delivered my ſentiments on this occaſion in obedience to your Lordſhips commands, I conclude, and have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed,)

London, April 11, 1767.

WILLIAM YOUNG,

Commiſſioner and Receiver.

Inſtruſtions from the Lords of the Treaſury, to the Commiſſioners for the Sale of Lands in the ceded Iſlands.

WHEREAS his Majeſty was pleaſed, by his inſtructions bearing date the 24th of March, 1764, to direct you to take care that no ſurvey of that part of the iſland of St. Vincent, which is inhabited or claimed by Charibbs, ſhould be begun before you ſhould have received freſh inſtructions for the purpoſe. And his Majeſty was pleaſed at the ſame time to command you, to apply to the Lord High Treaſurer, or Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, for the time being, for further inſtructions, orders, and directions, as you ſhould, from time to time, ſee cauſe and occaſion for ſo doing. And whereas a memorial has been laid before us, by William Young, Eſq; Comiſſioner and Receiver, repreſenting on your part as well as his own, that in the courſe of the execution of your commiſſion in the iſland of St. Vincent, you had procured and obtained more perfect information and knowledge of the ſituation and ſettlements of the Charibbs, and of the extent, ſoil, preſent condition, and improveable value of the quarter of the iſlands, which they occupy and inhabit, and of their numbers, diſpoſition, habits, and manner of living, than could be had at the time when his Majeſty's inſtructions were given to you, for the regulation of your conduct in this reſpect; and the memorial ſtates, that it appears to you from the diſcoveries you have made, and the accounts you have received, that the number of the ſavages, who paſs under the general denomination of Charibbs, do not exceed 2000 perſons, including women and children. That the natives and original inhabitants of the iſland, conſtitute but an inconſiderable part of this computation, having been much reduced and almoſt extripated, by a race of free Negroes, from whom, though they live intermixed, the native Charibbs are eaſily diſtinguiſhable, both as being of a different countenance and complection, and of a nature and character much leſs fierce and intractable. That theſe two tribes of ſavages inhabit the eaſtern or windward part of the iſland, living in huts, irregularly ſcattered and diſperſed in the woods, and for the moſt part without law, diſcipline or ſubordination. That except ſome ſpots and patches of cleared lands, on which they raiſe a ſmall quantity of proviſions, (which added to the fiſh they take are neceſſary for their ſubſiſtance,) the whole tract through which they are thus diſperſed lies covered with wood, uncultivated and unoccupied, without benefit to the colony, or uſe to the nominal owners, though it is repreſented to be, in richneſs of ſoil, ſupply of rivers,

rivers, and fitneſs for the growth and manufactory of ſugar, more valuable than any of the lands already ſold by virtue of your commiſſion. And the memorial further repreſents, that it is your earneſt deſire and recommendation, that you may receive from us inſtructions and power to ſurvey, allot and diſpoſe of the ſaid lands in the windward part of the iſland, purſuant to the tenor of your former inſtructions; and in caſe the neceſſity of the ſervice ſhall require it, to remove the Charibbs to ſome other quarter of the iſland, which may be found as comfortable for their habitation, and as convenient for their ſupport, as that which they now poſſeſs. And it is ſuggeſted in the ſaid memorial, that under the precautions therein propoſed, without reſpect to the notice to be given, the terms to be offered, and the time to be allowed them, it is your opinion that this removal may be brought about without endangering the peace of the iſland, and without the neceſſity of uſing any act of force or violence.

Now we having fully and maturely conſidered the ſaid repreſentation, and the propoſitions which it contains, think fit to approve of the plan for ſurveying and ſelling the lands, on the windward ſide of the iſland of St. Vincent, now poſſeſſed and inhabited by the Charibbs, and we direct you to obſerve the following ſpecial inſtructions in the execution of this very important ſervice.

1ſt, You ſhall forthwith ſurvey, and diſpoſe of, in a manner conformable to your former inſtructions, all the cultivable lands, ſituated between the River Rebechi, windward to Grand Sable, and ſo round to Chateau Bellair, and cauſe the ſeveral allotments to be laid out and diſpoſed of, in the moſt expeditious and leaſt expenſive method that can be contrived, conſiſtently with the rules and ſpirit of your general inſtructions.

2d, You ſhall take no ſtep towards the removal of the Charibbs, before notice of the whole arrangement and deſign ſhall have been given to the principal perſons amongſt them, in ſuch manner, and by ſuch mediation, as you ſhall judge moſt proper, and until they may be made to comprehend and underſtand the terms and conditions under which it is propoſed; and after theſe precautions, when you ſhall come to the execution of the arrangement, let eſpecial care be taken that every motion be conducted with the gentleſt hand, and in the mildeſt manner.

3d, In fixing on the quarter of the iſland, deſtined for their new ſettlement, let every proper indulgence be ſhewn to them, and let the lands allotted to them in exchange, be convenient for their habitation,

ſufficient for their ſupport, and in point of ſituation adapted to their manner of living.

4th, You ſhall give certificates to ſome of the principal perſons amongſt them, of the ſituation and quantity of land allotted to them, which may be made by ſurvey, or to ſave expence and time, by fair computation.

5th, Let the abſolute property of the lands ſo allotted, be aſſured to them and their children, in ſuch manner as ſhall be found moſt to their ſatisfaction, and moſt agreeable to their cuſtoms.

6th, Until they ſhall have gathered in all the proviſions, ſown on the cleared lands they now occupy, and ſhall have cleared and planted other lands in the country allotted to them, and built convenient huts for their reception, you ſhall permit them to remain without moleſtation in their preſent ſituation; and let five years from the date hereof, be allowed them for theſe purpoſes, unleſs they ſhall voluntarily, of their free will, remove themſelves and their families ſooner.

7th, Under ſuch terms and conditions in the performance of all which, we order and enjoin you to obſerve the ſtricteſt good faith with the Charibbs) let the cleared lands which they now occupy, be compriſed in, and ſold with the plantation and allotment of woodland which ſurrounds, or lies contiguous to them, as may happen to be moſt convenient; and on the final and compleat removal of the Charibbs, let ſuch cleared lands become the abſolute property of the reſpective purchaſers of ſuch ſurrounding or contiguous allotments.

8th, You ſhall put up ſuch cleared lands at a price not leſs than ten pounds ſterling per acre, and let it be declared as one of the conditions of ſale, that the purchaſe-money of ſuch cleared lands, ſhall be paid to the Receiver in two payments, one half thereof at the time of ſuch ſale, and the other half at the expiration of five years, or when a certificate ſhall be received that the Charibbs are actually removed.

The woodlands ſhall be put up to auction, and ſold and paid for in the manner, and by the inſtallments, directed in your former inſtructions.

9th, In conſideration of their conſent and ſubmiſſion to the removal, you ſhall pay, or cauſe to be paid, to the ſeveral Charibbs, owners of ſuch lands, or to the perſons having authority to receive the ſame, for the cleared lands ſo compriſed and ſold, the clear ſum of four Johannes,

or

or £ 13. 4s. currency, for each acre, according to the actual ſurvey, or the faireſt computation that can be made, and at that rate and proportion for any quantity of cleared land, leſs than one acre.

10th, This money ſhall be paid to the Charibbs by the Receiver in two equal payments, the firſt whenever the cleared lands ſhall be ſold; the ſecond at the expiration of five years from the date hereof, or ſooner, if a certificate ſhall be received from the planter, that the Charibbs are voluntarily and actually removed.

11th, If at the end of the time allowed them for their removal, the Charibbs ſhall not have prepared huts in the manner before-mentioned, you ſhall apply to the Deputy Governor, or Commander in Chief of the ſaid iſland, that he may give orders for erecting the ſame by the planters, who ſhall have purchaſed the cleared lands, which the Charibbs now occupy, or by any other proper perſons, deducting any reaſonable expence on that account, out of the laſt payment to be made to the Charibbs, for whoſe uſe the ſaid huts ſhall be erected.

12th, No quit-rent ſhall be reſerved for the lands allotted to the Charibbs, but let the abſolute right and property thereof, be aſſured to them and their deſcendants in ſuch manner as they ſhall deſire, according to their uſages and cuſtoms; and let it be declared to them, that they and their children are to hold and enjoy ſuch lands limited by no reſtriction, except that of not being allowed to alienate any part of them to any white perſon, and ſubject to no other condition, except that of behaving themſelves quietly and peaceably like good and faithful ſubjects to his Majeſty.

13th, If in the courſe of the arrangement it ſhall appear to you, that the remains of the native Charibbs deſire for their ſecurity to be ſeparated and ſettled apart from the free negroes; and if you ſhall in your diſcretion judge, that ſuch ſeparation can be made and maintained without hazard to the peace or inconvenience to the property of the colony, you ſhall comply with ſuch their deſire.

14th, You ſhall tranſmit accounts of the numbers of the Charibbs and their families, and of the lands which they reſpectively hold by certificate to the Governor General, and to the Commander in Chief of the iſland of St. Vincent, for the time being, in order that their declarations of fidelity to the King may be received, as they ſhall from time to time come in for that purpoſe; and that the ſeal of the iſland may be affixed to ſuch certificates, if it ſhall be thought neceſſary.

15th

15th, No fee whatſoever ſhall be taken by you, or by any perſon employed in this ſervice, from the Charibbs, for any thing which ſhall be done in conſequence of theſe inſtructions.

We declare that theſe inſtructions, and every part of them, ſhall extend to all free negroes, and free mulattoes, inhabitants of the ſaid iſland of St. Vincent, and that they ſhall be entitled to the ſame advantages and indulgencies in every reſpect, as are hereby intended to be granted and ſecured to the Charibbs.

Letter

Letter from the Earl *of* SHELBURNE *to Governor* MELVILLE, *dated 18th January*, 1768.

SIR,

Whitehall, January 18, 1768.

THE Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury having given inſtructions to the Commiſſioners for the ſale of lands in the ceded iſlands, for the ſale of that part of St. Vincent's which is inhabited by the Charibbs, ſituate between the river Rebechi, windward to Grand Sable, and ſo round to Chateau Bellair; I am to ſignify to you his Majeſty's commands, that you give every ſupport and aſſiſtance in your power to the ſaid Commiſſioners in the execution of their inſtructions.

I am, &c.

SHELBURNE.

Letter from Lieutenant Governor FITZMAURICE *to the* Earl *of* HILLSBOROUGH.

My Lord,

Grenada, May 11, 1769.

I TAKE the earlieſt opportunity of communicating to your Lordſhip the accounts I have received of the diſturbance occaſioned by the Indians which have lately happened in the iſland of St. Vincent, as contained in two letters from thence, of which I have the honour to tranſmit copies to your Lordſhip.

I have immediately ſent expreſs to St. Vincent, to acquaint the Preſident commanding in that colony, that I am ready to ſend from the other iſlands of this government, whatever reinforcements of men or ſupply of ammunition which can be afforded, and may be thought neceſſary for the ſafety and tranquility of the inhabitants.

I have alſo written to the board of Commiſſioners for the diſpoſal of lands which happens now to be held here, that they may depend on every aſſiſtance they can deſire which is in my power to give.

And as my preſence in St. Vincent may contribute in ſome degree to diſſipate the alarms which ſeem to be ſpread throughout that colony; and may the better enable me to give ſuch directions as circumſtances may require, I propoſe ſailing from hence as ſoon as ſome neceſſary buſineſs here will permit, which will be in a few days.

I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordſhip, that I have been this day aſſured, upon authority to which I may venture to give ſome credit, that thoſe Indians or Charibbs declared their intentions not long ſince of ſending a deputation to the French Governor of Martinique, to whom they were formerly taught, by the French miſſionaries, ſent amongſt them to pay the moſt implicit obedience, to know his advice in relation to the meaſures they ſhould purſue concerning their lands in St. Vincent; it is added that the French Governor adviſed them to ſubmit to his Majeſty's orders, but their conduct has proved that either they thought proper to diſregard ſuch advice, or that an oppoſite one was given to them privately; I have ſent for the perſon to whom the Charibbs mentioned this application, as well as the ſubject of the conference: I have not as yet ſeen him; but if upon a ſtrict enquiry, I find that ſuch a deputation

was

was ſent, and was received by the Governor of Martinique, I may be induced to write to him upon the occaſion. A good underſtanding has hitherto ſubſiſted between him and the neighbouring Britiſh Governors. His anſwer, and whatever other events may occur in relation to theſe people, I ſhall take the earlieſt opportunity of communicating to your Lordſhip. I have the honour to be, with great reſpect,

My Lord,

your Lordſhip's moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Letter

Letter from WILLIAM YOUNG, *Eſq; firſt Commiſſioner for the ſale of lands to* HARRY ALEXANDER, *Eſq; Preſident of the iſland of St. Vincent.*

SIR,

St. Vincent, May 1, 1769.

FROM intelligence which I can depend upon, communicated to me by Mr. Simpſon, his Majeſty's chief ſurveyor of lands in the ceded iſlands, it appears that the Charibbs have expreſſed great uneaſineſs and diſſatisfaction at the endeavours of the Commiſſioners to carry the King's inſtructions for the ſurvey and diſpoſal of lands in the iſland into execution, as far as reſpects the lands inhabited or claimed by them: and they have in conſequence already aſſembled themſelves to the number of upwards of 200 well armed (and are hereby increaſing) with a firm determination to prevent by force, if neceſſary, theſe inſtructions being accompliſhed.

I have ſince ſeen Captain Wilkie, the Officer commanding that part of his Majeſty's 32d regiment, ſtationed in this country, as well as ſeveral other officers and gentlemen who have been witneſſes to the appearance, behaviour and reſolution of this armed body to oppoſe the detachment of ſoldiers deſtined to ſupport the King's ſurveyors in the execution of their duty, and I am fully confirmed, by their united information and opinion, that the inſtructions from the Lords of the Treaſury to the Commiſſioners for the ſale and diſpoſal of lands on the windward ſide of St. Vincent, cannot at preſent be executed without greatly endangering the ſecurity and peace of the country, or without the ſupport of a much greater force than it appears poſſible to raiſe in it at preſent, for that purpoſe.

By examining carefully our inſtructions I find theſe words, that they are given on a ſuggeſtion that they may be brought about without endangering the peace of the iſland, and without the neceſſity of uſing any act of force or violence. And moreover I afterwards obſerve the following command, viz. You ſhall take no ſtep towards the removal of the Charibbs before notice of the whole arrangement and deſign ſhall have been given to the principal perſons among them, in ſuch manner and by ſuch mediation as you ſhall judge moſt proper, and until they be made to comprehend and underſtand the terms and conditions under which

which it is propoſed: and after theſe precautions, when you ſhall come to the execution of the arrangement, let eſpecial care be taken that every motion be conducted with the gentleſt hand, and in the mildeſt manner.

I have herewith the honour to incloſe you an exact copy of all theſe inſtructions which we have ever moſt carefully complied with; and as one of his Majeſty's Commiſſioners for the ſale and diſpoſal of lands in the ceded iſlands, I now think it my duty to acquaint you, that in obedience to theſe inſtructions, I can no longer require from you the aid or aſſiſtance of his Majeſty's troops to ſupport the Surveyors in carrying them into execution.

I would not lightly deſiſt from an undertaking which it is my duty to ſee performed: but as it is apparent from the ſpirit, as well as letter of our inſtructions, that nothing is to be effected in the preſent caſe by a violence or compulſion that might endanger the peace and ſecurity of this infant and weak colony, I am clearly of opinion that nothing on the part of the Commiſſioners is more to be attempted here, till the King's further pleaſure be known.

I ſhall therefore immediately forbid the Surveyors to proceed any longer in tracing the road through the Indian country, or in their ſurveys, and ſhall take the earlieſt opportunity of going out in perſon to meet the Charibbs, and acquaint them of my reſolution as a Commiſſioner, acting in conformity to his Majeſty's commands.

I thought it neceſſary to communicate my ſentiments to you on this important and critical ſituation, and have the honour to be, with great reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient

and moſt humble ſervant,

WILLIAM YOUNG.

Letter from HARRY ALEXANDER *Eſq. Preſident of St. Vincent, to Lieutenant Governor* FITZMAURICE.

SIR, St. Vincent, May 3, 1769.

I Had the honour of writing to you laſt by Captain Halliburton, and I now take the earlieſt opportunity to acquaint you of the very critical ſituation this iſland has ſince been in, from the turbulent ſpirit of the Charibbs, ariſiug from their jealouſy and diſſatisfaction in the meaſures of government, concerning the intention of ſelling and diſpoſing of thoſe lands in their occupation, and the tracing roads into their country. I was firſt warned of their being in this diſpoſition by a letter from Mr. Simpſon, his Majeſty's chief Surveyor, on Wedneſday laſt, and that the Surveyors had been by the Charibbs inſulted, and obſtructed in proceeding with the trace of the road, requeſting, that the guard then poſted at ſome diſtance from where the Surveyors were at work, ſhould advance to ſupport them, and that a houſe ſhould by Friday or Saturday be ready at the end of the road, for the reception of the guard. I accordingly gave orders to the commanding officer, that the guards ſhould advance to that new poſt, which was done on Saturday morning, but with ſuch oppoſition from the Charibbs, that nothing but the temper and prudence of the officer could have preſerved them from an immediate action, which probably in ſuch a country, and under ſuch circumſtances, might have proved fatal to ſo ſmall a handful of troops, being only forty in number, to encounter in a woody country, under every diſadvantage, a body of Indians, upwards of two hundred, well armed, firmly reſolved, they ſaid, to keep their freedom, and preſerve their lands. The officer however, thought it his duty to keep the poſt, and wait farther orders. The day following I received advice from Captain Wilkie, the commanding officer of that part of his Majeſty's regiment quartered here, that the Charibbs had cut off the communication between him and the troops he had with him poſted at fort Tyrrell, and the advanced guard in the Charibb country on the road, and that their ſituation muſt be very critical indeed, as by that means, the guard was cut off from every ſupply of water and proviſions, and ſixteen miles

advanced

advanced in the heart of the Charibb country, ſurrounded by a numerous body of vile ſavages, who had impudently commenced hoſtilities, by obliging the Surveyors to make their eſcape in the beſt manner they could by flight, leaving their baggage and every thing behind them: upon which the Charibbs ſet fire to their houſes and burnt them to the ground. Upon this advice, all the troops that could be muſtered from Kingſtown, immediately marched as far as Tyrrell's fort, and from thence, by the dawn of yeſterday, I marched, with 100 men, to relieve the guard on the road, joined by as many of the principal gentlemen of the country, as in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time could be collected together, with their white ſervants, and a proportion of their truſtieſt ſlaves. By eight o'clock we got within a mile and a half of the advanced party of the Charibbs, in number, as I was informed, upward of 200, which ſhortly increaſed to about 100 more. The troops, then fatigued with a long march, I ordered to halt, that they might reſt, and I gain intelligence, and to take the advice of the gentlemen of his Majeſty's council, the commanding officer of the troops, Governor Young, and the principal gentlemen of property in the country, then preſent, as to the meaſure I ſhould direct to be purſued, as well as to take the opportunity of reading a letter from Governor Young, wrote by him as a Commiſſioner, and by himſelf put into my hands on the march, which till then I had not leiſure to peruſe, a copy of which I do myſelf the honour to incloſe to you, and from which you will ſee, notwithſtanding how ſenſible I was his Majeſty's government had by thoſe wretches been violently inſulted, yet from his Majeſty's boundleſs humanity and tender diſpoſition reſpecting thoſe people, I found myſelf reſtrained from any act of violence ſuch as I could juſtify, without riſque of incurring his Majeſty's diſpleaſure, unleſs drove to it from neceſſity. From mature deliberation upon theſe matters, aſſiſted by the advice of the council and Governor Young, whoſe judgment in ſervice I have a pleaſure in owning I pay great deference to, I was adviſed and led to conceive, the moſt eſſential ſervice I could do to this colony in its preſent ſituation, and moſt conſiſtently with his Majeſty's royal inſtructions, by and with the advice of his Privy Council to his Commiſſioners, would be carefully to avoid coming to hoſtilities with theſe creatures, unleſs under the neceſſity of it to regain the advanced guard then ſurrounded by them, and the better to effect that purpoſe, to acquaint the Charibbs by meſſage, that I was not come make war with them; that his Majeſty had not yet ſufficiently inſtructed his Governors reſpecting that, therefore I only

came to demand a ſafe return to the advanced guard, and that as the carrying a road into their country had given ſo much uneaſineſs, Governor Young, as his Majeſty's chief Commiſſioner, would give directions, that the Surveyors ſhall deſiſt from proceeding any farther, till his Majeſty ſhall be pleaſed to direct his Governor what ſhall be his farther intentions in regard to them; and that if they behaved themſelves peaceably and quietly, every thing ſhould remain as it was before, till his Majeſty's farther inſtructions ſhall arrive, and of which they ſhall have a notice: this they readily agreed to, and promiſed to return peaceably to their homes: the guard returned unmoleſted, and I withdrew the troops to their quarters without the diſcharge of a muſket on either ſide, and for a time, I hope it will be ſhort, I quitted that fine cream part of this iſland, with a regret I cannot expreſs to you. However, as I write this letter in a hurry, merely to give your Honor a detail of this matter, leſt, from a miſrepreſentation you ſhould have been uneaſy about the colony, I ſhall not therefore, touch upon any other ſubject. We are now I think, in as much peace as at any time before, yet we ought not to conſider ourſelves ſecure, but to provide againſt the worſt, for on this late occaſion, we were, I mean the inhabitants, men with good hearts and hands, but without arms to employ them. Reſpecting theſe conſiderations, and a proper repreſentation of this people, and the lands they occupy, to his Majeſty, is not the preſent deſign of this letter, that Sir, will be made to you very ſhortly, in a more full and regular manner.

The happineſs I have had in Governor Young's being on the ſpot, and co-operating in every thing with me, will only be equalled in the enjoyment I ſhall have in your approbation of the meaſures I have taken, if I am lucky enough to have it. The alacrity of the officers and troops imitated in every inſtance by the inhabitants, gave me much pleaſure, and a full confidence they were ready to do their duty, and much wiſhed his Majeſty's mildneſs had been leſs, and his inſtructions to his Commiſſioners leſs poſitive reſpecting the Charibbs, whoſe inſolence they were impatient to chaſtiſe, and unhappy in the diſappointment, nothing but order and diſcipline reſtraining them.

I have the honour to be, with the utmoſt regard, Sir,

Your moſt humble and moſt obedient Servant.

HARRY ALEXANDER.

Memorials of RICHARD MAITLAND, Eſq; *of Mark-Lane, London.*

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Hilſborough, one of his Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of Richard Maitland, Agent for the Iſland of St. Vincent,

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT before the iſland of St. Vincent was ceded to the crown of Great-Britain, the French had ſettled and planted part of it with coffee and cocoa; but the far greater part was poſſeſſed, tho' little cultivated, by the Charibbs.

That the lands formerly occupied and deſerted by the French, have been chiefly purchaſed from the crown, by our own natural born ſubjects, at prices far exceeding the moſt ſanguine expectations, buildings erected, negroes, cattle, and every implement neceſſary for making ſugar, provided at great expence. Many eſtates are now completely ſettled, which promiſe ſucceſs beyond any former example, both with reſpect to the fertility of the ſoil, and the excellent quality of the ſugar.

That beſides the ſugar eſtates, there are many plantations of coffee, and cocoa, chiefly poſſeſſed by the French, who ſtill remain and hold their lands by leaſes from the crown.

That from the pleaſing proſpect of ſucceſs, the purchaſers thought themſelves happy; till they were alarmed with the account of between two and three hundred black Charibbs, having ſtopped the Surveyors employed by the crown, in laying out and making a road round the iſland.

That from what paſſed between ſome of theſe black Charibbs and the Surveyors, as well as the account given by Captain Patrick Wilkie, of the thirty third regiment, to the Honourable Harry Alexander, the Preſident, it appears, the Charibbs were determined not to ſuffer the Surveyors to proceed farther on their buſineſs; nor would they let the party of Soldiers who guarded them, go to their new barracks at Mercerika, but pulled down the houſe which was lately built, after having in vain attempted to burn it, the thatch being green. In ſhort *that they denied any ſubjection to his Majeſty, and were determined to preſerve their independence.*

That as ſoon as Sir William Young, the firſt Commiſſioner for the ſale of lands, was informed by the Officers of the regiment and Surveyors, as well as by ſeveral other Gentlemen who had been witneſs to the

appearance, behaviour, and reſolution of this armed body, to oppoſe the detachment appointed to ſupport the Surveyors, he acquainted the Preſident, that the Commiſſioners could not, at preſent proceed to execute their inſtructions, for the diſpoſal of the lands, without endangering the peace and ſafty of the colony.

And as their inſtructions ordered them not to uſe any coerſive means, he had forbid the Surveyors to proceed farther, but that he would go in among the Charibbs and inform them of his reſolution, to obey his Majeſty's commands, which were, to obſerve the moſt humane conduct towards them.

That the Preſident, in conſequence of this repreſentation from Sir William Young, ordered the troops to be withdrawn from the advanced guard, and called the council and aſſembly, to communicate to them the ſteps which had been taken ; and to conſult what was proper to be done in ſo critical a ſituation, when their lives and fortunes might all be in danger, if theſe infatuated ſavages ſhould be underhand aided and inſtuenced by our ſecret enemies and rivals at Martinica; the councils and aſſembly, ſenſible of their danger, reſolved to addreſs his Majeſty, for ſuch immediate aid, as he in his great goodneſs ſhall think neceſſary for their preſent circumſtances. They alſo reſolved, to put themſelves in the beſt poſture of defence in their power, to guard againſt their dangerous ſituation, from an armed force, *in actual rebellion*, in the heart of their country, and wait, with anxiety, till his Majeſty's pleaſure was known.

Sir William more than once, afterwards, went out to meet their chiefs, but they would not give him an opportunity of ſpeaking with them.

Your Lordſhip knows the Charibbs are two diſtinct bodies, viz. the Aborigines or yellow Charibbs, an inoffenſive quiet people, no ways concerned in the preſent rebellion; the others (the black Charibbs,) are the deſcendents of a cargo of Guinea ſlaves, ſtranded there, many years ago ; who after they had been humanely received by the ancient inhabitants, ſoon repaid their hoſpitality with ingratitude, and have now almoſt extirpated them. The runnaways from Barbadoes, Martinico, and Guadalupe, have from time to time increaſed their numbers, and enabled them to gain the ſuperiority of the yellow Charibbs, and now they entice the ſlaves of our own planters, in the iſland, offering protection and liberty to all who will join them. And what adds to the danger from theſe ſavages, is their being ſupplied with, *new fire-arms from the French iſlands*, with which they keep up a cloſe correſpondence.

From

From this your Lordſhip muſt think them bad neighbours, even in time of peace, and that in time of war, connected as they are, every thing is to be dreaded from them.

Your memorialiſt humbly begs your Lordſhip to take theſe matters into conſideration, and to intercede with his Majeſty, that he may be graciouſly pleaſed to order ſome additional troops to be ſent, immediately, to the protection of this valuable infant colony, and to give ſuch directions about the *diſpoſal* of the black Charibbs, as he ſhall in his wiſdom think moſt prudent, and your memorialiſt ſhall ever pray, &c,

Addreſs of the Council and Aſſembly of St. Vincent to the King.

Saint Vincent.

To his moſt Excellent Majeſty.

WE your Majeſty's moſt dutiful, loyal, and faithful ſubjects, the Council and Aſſembly of the iſland of St. Vincent, inviolably attached by every tye of duty and gratitude, to your Majeſty's perſon and government; beg leave to return your Majeſty our moſt ſincere and humble thanks, for the ſupport and protection that we have hitherto enjoyed; and we moſt humbly beg permiſſion to approach the throne, and lay before your Majeſty the dangerous and diſtreſſed ſituation of this colony.

Your Majeſty's natural born ſubjects, purchaſed lands at very high prices, with an intention of cultivating them, and had met with ſucceſs beyond the moſt ſanguine expectations, with the greateſt probability of rendering this one of the moſt flouriſhing of your Majeſty's ſugar iſlands, till unexpectedly their properties are rendered very precarious, and their lives endangered by a rebellion of the negroes, commonly called Black Charibbs; principally the deſcendants of runaway negroes from Barbadoes, and the other neighbouring iſlands, who being joined by runaway ſlaves from the preſent inhabitants, in great numbers have aſſembled themſelves in arms, in the windward part of this iſland, without the leaſt provocation from the inhabitants, and have deſtroyed the highways, and prevented all communication betwixt the different parts of this iſland; daily enticing their ſlaves to join them, detaining others by force, who accidentally fall into their hands, promiſing them their liberty, arms, and lands, provided they would join and aſſiſt them in totally extirpating the white inhabitants, inſulting your Majeſty's ſubjects

jects, forcing from their habitations the original yellow or red Charibbs, a harmleſs and well affected people, who firſt afforded them an aſylum, and moſt undutifully and ungratefully denying they bear any allegiance to your Majeſty, and in diſobedience to the laws, contemptuouſly carrying off tobacco, proviſions, and other produce to the French iſlands, and importing their manufactures, arms, ammunition, and ſpirituous liquors; which not only make their reſidence in the country claimed by them, a very great detriment to the ſettlement of the colony, but likewiſe prevent the cultivation of that valuable and extenſive tract of land, which while in their hands lies almoſt entirely uncultivated.

The paternal care your Majeſty conſtantly ſhews your ſubjects in every part of your dominions, however diſtant from the throne, encourages us to hope for your protection againſt theſe ſavages, by ſuch effectual meaſures being taken with them, that may prevent their being dangerous in time of peace, or employed in time of war by your Majeſty's enemies in harraſſing from within, while theſe from without attack this defenceleſs iſland: having but very few regular troops remaining, and being unprovided with forts, batteries, artillery, or warlike ſtores, the expences of providing which, would be too great for an infant colony; but which we moſt humbly hope to be ſupplied with from the extenſive protection afforded to every part of his Majeſty's dominions, againſt the inſults of your enemies.

It remains for us moſt ardently to pray that your Majeſty, rich in every domeſtic bliſs, may long, very long, and happily reign over a free and grateful people; and that there may never be wanting a Prince of your royal houſe, to ſway the ſceptre over theſe realms, to the lateſt poſterity.

Letter from the Earl of HILLSBOROUGH *to Lieutenant Governor* FITZMAURICE, *dated Whitehall, 4th Auguſt,* 1769.

SIR,

HIS Majeſty has given the fulleſt conſideration to the ſtate of the iſland of St. Vincent, as repreſented in your letter, No. 28, and in the Addreſs of the Council and Aſſembly which accompanies it.

The King truſts that the prudent meaſures you have taken to ſupply the inhabitants with arms and ammunition, will in ſome degree, remove their apprehenſions of any immediate danger from the Charibbs, and diſſipate the alarm they ſeem at preſent to be under; but if theſe

ſavages

ſavages ſhould continue in a ſtate of hoſtility, and you ſhould not be able, with the force which may be collected from the other iſlands within your government, to reduce them to a proper ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty; in that caſe, it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do make a requiſition from the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's forces in North America, for ſuch an additional number of troops as you ſhall think abſolutely neceſſary for that purpoſe, which requiſition General Gage will receive the King's command to comply with, if it can be done conſiſtent with his Majeſty's ſervice on the continent. But I have it particularly in command from his Majeſty, to ſignify to you his pleaſure, that if you ſhall find it abſolutely neceſſary to make any requiſition of troops from Major General Gage, you do at the ſame time tranſmit to him a very full and explicit repreſentation of the ſtate of the iſland, together with the minute explanation of your reaſons for making ſuch requiſition, and the circumſtances which induce you to fix upon the number of men you ſhall think fit to require.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter from Lieutenant Governor FITZMAURICE *to the* Earl *of* HILLSBOROUGH.

My Lord,

St. Vincent, June 10, 1769.

IMMEDIATELY after I had the honour of writing my letter, No. 30, from Grenada, I ſailed from thence for this iſland.

Upon my arrival here I found the Charibbs were apprehenſive that there was a deſign, not only of depriving them of their grounds, but alſo of reducing them into ſlavery, notwithſtanding the very particular pains that had been taken by his Majeſty's Commiſſioners, to explain and make known to them the King's moſt gracious and humane intentions to preſerve them in their freedom, and to allow them good, proper, and ſufficient lands for their ſupport, maintenance, and comfort.

Thoſe among them who live upon the borders of that part of the iſland which is claimed and ſolely occupied, though little cultivated by them, being ſomewhat more civilized than the reſt, and awed perhaps alſo by the neighbourhood of white perſons, ſeemed to acquieſce in the meaſures, and confide in the promiſes of government.

But they who live more remotely from the ſettlements, partaking of that ſuſpicious diſpoſition which is natural to ſavages, however apparently ſubmiſſive, and even ſatisfied when preſent at any conference, cannot eaſily be reconciled to the vicinity of white people, whoſe gradual and ſucceſsful intruſions upon their Charibb neighbours they are ſagacious enough to have remarked.

The ſituation of the windward part of this iſland makes an intercourſe in open canoes between them and the French inhabitants of St. Lucia both ſhort and eaſy; there they ſell tobacco, Indian proviſions, hammocks, ozier baſkets, in exchange for guns, cutlaſſes, gunpowder, and a few manufactures. They are of a diſpoſition ſo little bent to induſtry, and their wants are ſo eaſily ſatisfied, that the amount of this trade, which will not be a little difficult totally to prevent, is very inconſiderable, nor otherwiſe important, than it ſerves to preſerve the influence which a foreign colony maintains over theſe his Majeſty's ſubjects, which might be turned to a very fatal purpoſe to the reſt of the inhabitants of this iſland, and is partly the cauſe of the preſent uneaſineſs. Many of the inhabitants of St. Lucia formerly lived in St. Vincent, but abandoned their eſtates here, after it was ceded to his Majeſty; they conſider the preſent poſſeſſors, as uſurpers of their property, and retain an irreconcileable hatred to the Engliſh name. Theſe people are exceedingly diligent in working the weak minds of Charibbs, already prejudiced and ſuſpicious, into a diſtruſt of the Britiſh government; they have propagated a report, as thoſe Charibbs are moſtly deſcended from a parcel of ſlaves bound in an Engliſh ſhip from Africa to Barbadoes, but wrecked on the eaſtern coaſt of St. Vincent, that the heir of the owner of the ſhip and ſlaves has lately applied to have the Charibbs ſold as his property, and for his benefit. The Charibbs cannot but be alarmed at theſe reports, and are led by their apprehenſions to attribute every meaſure of government to a fixed deſign of bringing about the purpoſe of enſlaving them. The road which was lately begun through the country by directions of the Commiſſioners, they will not allow to be with any other view. They have a lively remembrance ſtill of the attempt which was made many years ago by the French to make them ſlaves; the ill ſucceſs of the French on that occaſion, gives them confidence that future attacks upon them will be attended with a ſimilar event. They have been ſince accuſtomed to conſider themſelves as perfectly independent. The French inhabitants in St. Vincent derived their titles chiefly from purchaſes made of theſe ſavages. The conſciouſneſs of the ſuperiority

of

of their ſtrength and numbers was attended with the ferocity with which ſuch a ſentiment is generally accompanied in ſavage breaſts, and the activity and hardineſs of their diſpoſition, which they derived from their African anceſtors, was not as yet loſt by their intermixture with the red or original Charibbs in theſe climates. It was formerly their practice to burn the plantations of the inhabitants with whom they happened to be offended; but it was the French policy to careſs and bear patiently every outrage from them. Many of the Charibbs have been baptized by miſſionaries from France, moſt of them ſpeak corruptly the language of that country. Pains were taken, in the late war, to inſtil into their minds a hatred for the Engliſh. Some of them are ſaid to have aſſiſted in the defence of Martinique, when beſieged by our forces; they have gradually been led to conſider the Governor of that iſland as their protector, though they affect not to acknowledge the ſovereignty of any Prince. Upon ſome apprehenſions which they conceived of deſigns againſt them, they applied to the Governor of Martinique, about two years ago, for permiſſion to ſettle in the iſland of St. Lucia, which is dependant upon his government, but they were refuſed. About ſeven months ago, ſoon after his Majeſty's Commiſſioners had given directions for ſurveying and laying out lots of lands for ſale, on the windward ſide of the iſland, the Charibbs declared their intentions of oppoſing by force any attempt to carry thoſe meaſures into execution beyond a river called Niambou, which they choſe to conſider as their boundary. I had the honour of acquainting your Lordſhip, at the time of theſe threats, and alſo of the meaſures which I have taken for the ſupport of his Majeſty's Commiſſioners. When the Charibbs found that preparations were made to paſs that river by force, and that there were troops ſent to ſupport the perſons employed by the Commiſſioners, they then thought proper to deſiſt from their firſt pretenſions: but they continued to conſider, with an evil and jealous eye, the progreſs that was making in the admeaſurement of the lands which were claimed, though little cultivated by them, as well as the knowledge which was daily acquired of the country, by the conſtant intercourſe into, and the road made through it. The difference of manners, languages, and prejudices gave alſo riſe to various diſguſts on their part, trifling conſidered ſeparately, but accumulated together, and added to their general ſuſpicions, exaſperated them at length to ſuch a degree, that they actually ſent ſeveral of their Chiefs to the Governor of Martinique, requiring his advice, protection, and aſſiſtance; he has declared to a gentleman of this iſland, and he has written

written before my late arrival here, to the Preſident of the Council; that he adviſed them in the ſtrongeſt terms to ſubmit to whatever meaſures his Majeſty ſhould be pleaſed to ordain concerning them. Protection and aſſiſtance he poſitively refuſed them. However, ſoon afterwards the Surveyors were advancing towards the ſettlements of the fierceſt and leaſt civilized Charibbs, they began to diſturb and harraſs them in their operations, and at laſt proceeded to ſuch threats and ill uſuage as compelled the Surveyors to deſiſt and retire.

A detachment of forty men of the 32d regiment being ſent to protect the Surveyors, the Charibbs appeared to the number of about 200 armed with fuſees, cutlaſſes, bows and arrows, and threatned they would not permit any road to be made through their country, declared they owed no ſovereignty to any prince; that not being ſubjects to the King of France, he could not cede them to the King of Great-Britain. That the whole of the iſland of St. Vincent, formerly belonged to them; that they had gradually given away half on the leeward part to the French ſettlers, who had come hither from time to time, which half might be ceded to the Britiſh crown, but that they were determined to preſerve the remaining half, or windward part to themſelves, in perfect independency. The detachment however remained ſome days in the poſt in which it was ſent, without any attack on the part of the Charibbs, but the Surveyors choſe to retire; the Charibbs burnt their temporary huts, deſtroyed their utenſils, broke up the roads lately made in ſeveral places, and held in every reſpect ſuch a conduct, and ſuch diſcourſes as perſuaded the Preſident of the council, his Majeſty's firſt Commiſſioners, and indeed moſt perſons in the colony, that there was no likelihood of proſecuting the ſurvey and ſale of thoſe lands, without endangering the peace of the iſland, or without committing acts of violence; as theſe were circumſtances in which the Commiſſioners have underſtood, that they were not to proceed upon the execution of their additional inſtructions, for the diſpoſal of the Charibb lands, and alſo as they were requeſted by both houſes of the legiſlature here, to deſiſt from any ſales, for the ſafety of the colony, they have accordingly poſtponed them until they ſhall receive further orders from government. Since the retreat of the perſons employed by them, and of the troops intended for the ſupport of theſe from the windward ſide of the iſland, the Charibbs have burned the remaining huts, which had been erected there for the uſe of the troops, Surveyors and their ſlaves, have felled more trees in ſome parts of the roads, in order to obſtruct the paſſage and have committed ſome trifling ravages on their neighbours. The confuſion

which

which has been much increaſed by falſe alarms, that they were coming down to deſtroy and burn the plantations and inhabitants on the leeward part of the iſland, though it appears that no ſuch reſolution had been formed; yet the lawleſs and ſavage diſpoſition of theſe Indians, their fluctuating temper, the ſuddeneſs of their reſolves, their proneneſs to exceſs from caprice and drunkenneſs, a knowledge of the ravages committed by them formerly, on the ſlighteſt pretences, the influence they are under to foreigners, and diſaffected and ill diſpoſed perſons, their quick ſenſe of the ſuppoſed injuries intended them, and the inſolence and inclination to violence, ſo natural to ſavage minds, on the victory they imagine they have gained, by the meaſures of government not taking place, reſpecting their lands, have been the ſubject of much uneaſineſs to this colony, when added to the conſideration of the ſmall number of white inhabitants, the few troops, and total want of fortified places.

In this ſtate I found the iſland when I arrived, and have endeavoured to reſtore tranquillity by every meaſure in my power. I have been among the Charibbs, and have iſſued a proclamation concerning them in the Engliſh and French languages, of which I have the honour to incloſe copies to your Lordſhip. I have ordered four companies of the 32d regiment, from Dominica, to join the five already here, which leaves but one regiment among all the other iſlands of the government. I have given directions for ſome pieces of ordnance from Grenada, to defend an eminence near the principal town, which is intended for the retreat of women and children, and for depoſiting records, and valuable effects. I have applied to Admiral Pye for a ſhip to cruize between the iſlands of St. Vincent and St. Lucia, to prevent or obſtruct the intercourſe between the Charibbs and the inhabitants of the latter iſland; and after the matureſt conſideration, I thought I could not, without impeding his Majeſty's ſervice, and expoſing this colony to much danger, avoid yielding to the earneſt ſolicitations of the people, in giving my aſſent to an act for immediately raiſing a militia in the iſland, after having taken the utmoſt precaution, that in its ſeveral clauſes, it was conformable to the inſtructions tranſmitted to me upon that ſubject. Your Lordſhip will receive an authentic copy of this act by this conveyance, together with the minutes of the Council, and proceedings of the Aſſembly. The intent of this act, is a ſecurity in the preſent exigency, and would be entirely defeated, were it to contain a clauſe ſuſpending its execution till his Majeſty's pleaſure were known; and I have therefore, in this one inſtance, ventured to deviate from the letter of my inſtructions, in a caſe not to be foreſeen; which I hope will not be diſap-

proved. I have purſued every other method I could have deviſed, and taken every arrangement conducive to the tranquillity and ſafety of the iſland, and every thing is now quiet. To the detail I have already entered into, I have nothing further to add to your Lordſhip, than that it appears, that while theſe Charibbs are permitted to occupy a large extent of country, without any mixture of white inhabitants, they will retain their fierce untractable nature, continue uncivilized, lawleſs, diſaffected, and of no uſe; and that the reſt of the colony will be in real danger, and conſtant apprehenſions of ſudden attacks from them; and that in caſe of a war with France, they will be inclined, and probably be induced totally to deſtroy it.

As from the moſt exact calculations, they cannot exceed a thouſand fighting men, headed by ſeveral very intelligent, as well as reſolute Chiefs; the aſſiſtance of another regiment properly diſpoſed in various parts of the iſland, ſo as to oblige them to divide their ſtrengh, with directions to the Commander of his Majeſty's ſhips in theſe ſeas to co-operate with the forces under his command, together with ſome expence for preſents to be diſtributed among them, and other incidental charges, would in all probability be ſufficient to oblige them, with little or no bloodſhed, to ſubmit to the meaſures of government, and to ſuffer white inhabitants to live peaceably among them; the expence would be greatly overpaid by the ſale of the lands, and the event is exceedingly deſirable, and indeed eſſential to the ſecurity and welfare of this iſland. I have the honour to be, with great reſpect,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's
Moſt obedient
Humble Servant,
ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

P. S. As your Lordſhip may be deſirous of being acquainted with the moſt minute circumſtances of this affair, as well as every detail concerning this colony, I have intruſted this packet to Mr. Sharpe, Speaker of the Aſſembly of this iſland, from whom I dare ſay your Lordſhip will receive a very intelligent and ſatisfactory account.

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

ST. VINCENT.

A PROCLAMATION.

By the Hon. Ulyſſes Fitzmaurice, Commander in Chief in and over his Majeſty's Southern Caraibée Iſlands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago in America; and of all other Iſlands and Territories which have been heretofore, or may be hereafter dependent thereupon, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice Admiral of the ſame, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS His Moſt Excellent Majeſty, GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. in his paternal care and attention to his loyal ſubjects in every part of his extenſive dominions, hath been graciouſly pleaſed to ſignify his intention of taking the Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes of the iſland of St. Vincent under his royal protection, and hath expreſsly commanded, that they ſhould be preſerved in the perfect enjoyment of their freedom, and hath directed his Commiſſioners for the ſale and diſpoſal of his lands in theſe iſlands, to allot to the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, good, proper, and ſufficient lands, for their ſupport, maintenance and comfort, to be enjoyed by them and their poſterity, according to their own uſages and cuſtoms. And Whereas it appears that notwithſtanding the great care and pains which his Majeſty's ſaid Commiſſioners have taken, to make known to the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, the King's gracious and humane intentions in their favour, and to explain to them the ſeveral arrangements to be taken, in purſuance of the royal inſtructions, as well for the permanent ſafety, tranquillity and proſperity of the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, as for the farther improvement and cultivation of the ſaid lands on the windward ſide of his Majeſty's ſaid iſland of St. Vincent. Nevertheleſs, great diſcontents and jealouſies have ariſen in the minds of ſome of the ſaid black Caraibes, from the falſe reports and traiterous inſinuations of divers ignorant and ill-diſpoſed perſons, diſaffected to his Majeſty's perſon and government; by which means the ſaid Caraibes have lately appeared diſſatisfied, refractory, and diſpoſed to obſtruct by force, the meaſures purſued by his Majeſty's command. I have thought proper,

per, in tenderneſs to the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, and to take away the effect of all falſe reports and malicious inſinuations, and to remove all doubts from their minds, concerning his Majeſty's goodneſs towards them, and by and with the advice of his Majeſty's council of this iſland, hereby to declare, it is his Majeſty's royal pleaſure, to preſerve the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, in the perfect enjoyment of their freedom, and to allot to them, good, proper, and ſufficient lands, for their ſupport, maintenance and comfort. to be enjoyed by them and their poſterity, according to their own uſages and cuſtoms, and to protect them againſt all injuſtice or oppreſſions whatſoever; provided always, that the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free-Negroes, demean themſelves peaceably and ſubmiſſively to the laws of this iſland, and to his Majeſty's commands; and at the ſame time to give them notice, that if they preſume riotouſly or unlawfully to aſſemble in arms, with a deſign of oppoſing or obſtructing the meaſures ordered by his Majeſty, in any part of this iſland of St. Vincent, or of doing any injury to the perſons or property of any of the inhabitants thereof, or of attempting any miſchief whatſoever to the public or to individuals, they will incur his Majeſty's higheſt diſpleaſure, and forfeit all claim to his gracious protection and favour, and be expoſed to the ſevereſt puniſhments. And they are hereby warned not to liſten or put faith in any reports or inſinuations tending to diminiſh that juſt confidence and reliance upon his Majeſty's goodneſs towards them, which it becomes them to preſerve, and on which their ſafety depends; but to put all truſt and confidence in the aſſurances which they have or may receive from his Majeſty's Commiſſioners for the ſale and diſpoſal of lands in theſe iſlands, who derive their inſtructions from the crown, concerning the ſaid Caraibes, Free-Mulattoes, and Free Negroes, and the ſeveral arrangements neceſſary to be made reſpecting them.

Given at the Government-houſe, St. Vincent, this 10th day of June, 1769, and in the ninth year of his Majeſty's reign.

By his Honour's command.
(James Ilford)

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Report of the Commiſſioners for the Sale of Lands in the Ceded Iſlands to the Lords of the Treaſury, dated Dominica, 16 Oct. 1771.

To the Right Hon. the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury.

The Report of the Commiſſioners for Sale and Diſpoſal of Lands in the Ceded and Neutral Iſlands, concerning the Charibbs of St. Vincent.

IN obedience to your Lordſhip's inſtructions to us, on the 25th of January laſt, relative to the Charibbs, we proceeded in the execution thereof, by fixing a time for the meeting of the Chiefs, and moſt ſenſible perſons amongſt them, at Morni Garou, on the borders of the country which they claim; and having given this previous notice, we met on the day appointed about forty of the Black Charibbs, inhabiting the internal parts of the iſland, under the conduct of one named Chatoyé, a perſon eſteemed to have the moſt influence amongſt them, and they of Grand Sable the moſt conſiderable diſtrict. After explaining to them very fully his Majeſty's diſpleaſure at the pretended purchaſes made from ſome among them, without his previous approbation (which ſeemed to them very agreeable to hear, as the Charibbs in general are averſe to theſe purchaſes taking place, and would even oppoſe them by force) and after explaining to them very fully his Majeſty's gracious intention of preſerving and defending them in their liberties, and of confirming them in the poſſeſſion of certain lands, neceſſary and convenient for their ſubſiſtance, and alſo of making them preſents in money for ſuch lands as they ſhould relinquiſh, we propoſed their yielding to us that part of the iſland called Morni Garou, extending as far as Point Eſpagnol, at the north end of the iſland, a tract which we had reaſon to think might contain about four thouſand acres of practicable land: and as this part of the country was chiefly claimed by thoſe Charibbs then aſſembled, we offered in his Majeſty's name, as a recompence for it, to confirm to them the whole of the land inhabited by them, and woods adjacent, in the diſtrict of Morni, Eſpagnol, Rabaca, and Grand Sable, which we promiſed ſhould never be taken from them; and that

they might be permitted to ſell it on obtaining the King's licence. We alſo offered a preſent in money of one thouſand Johanneſſes, or thirty ſix ſhilling pieces, to be divided amongſt them. We eſteemed this as a very advantageous offer on the part of the Charibbs, as in the whole extent of country which we aſked, there is no ſettlement poſſeſſed by a Black Charibb, the only inhabitants there being two or three free negroes, who live on ſmall ſpots formerly cleared by ſome of the Charibbs, and under whom they now hold their land; and in order to obviate any difficulties theſe perſons might raiſe, we offered to provide ſome other land for them, in caſe it ſhould be neceſſary to remove them from their ſettlements. Some Red Charibbs had been formerly ſettled in this part, but having received money from thoſe adventurers who have been trying to force themſelves into thoſe lands, have now entirely quitted, and no perſon made any claim on their behalf. We alſo thought that the offer of confirming to them the whole of the lands in the parts where they were ſettled, would be readily accepted, as they would thereby be quite ſeparate from the white inhabitants; a point they have always appeared to think of great importance. On aſking whether they were willing to agree to our propoſal, we were greatly ſurprized to find them in a fixed reſolution not to conſent to our ſettling any part of the country claimed by them; which they ſteadily adhered to, notwithſtanding our endeavours, by many arguments, to prevail on them to alter their ſentiments. On our departure, we deſired them to return to their habitations, and conſult further with the reſt of the people, and if they ſhould alter their reſolution, to acquaint us of it within ten days, otherwiſe we ſhould conſider them as perſiſting in their refuſal; ſince which we have heard nothing concerning them, and therefore conclude they are determined not to conſent to any terms.

We were greatly aſtoniſhed at this refuſal, as we had good reaſon to think, from the declarations of many of them, particularly Chatoyé, the Chief then preſent, that they would have conſented; and can only attribute this behaviour to the influence of one amongſt them, who had been reſident in Martinico from his infancy, and had been ſervant to ſeveral French officers, who was lately returned and ſettled in the Charibb country. On our demanding whether they acknowledged themſelves ſubjects of the King of Great Britain, and deſiring to know whether

whether they would take the oath of allegiance, this perſon ſpoke for them, and anſwered in the negative; and ſaid they were independent of either the King of Great Britain, or of France, but at the ſame time they confeſſed a great partiality to the French, and declared they had been ordered by the Governor of Martinico not to give up any land; and that he had promiſed to protect them.

We are now convinced by the whole tenor of their behaviour, that all treaty and negociation, though on the moſt juſt and humane terms, will be fruitleſs; and in caſe it ſhall be thought expedient to oblige them to ſubmit to his Majeſty's government, or to yield up any part of the land they claim, it cannot be done without a ſufficient force to terrify them into obedience. And we are of opinion, that their poſitive refuſal to agree on the terms offered by us, on behalf of the Crown, or to take the oaths of allegiance, added to their avowed attachment to the French, makes it abſolutely neceſſary for the ſecurity of the lives and property of the inhabitants, that ſome ſteps ſhould immediately be taken to prevent their committing outrages unpuniſhed.

We conceive it to be impoſſible that ſo ſmall an iſland can long continue divided between a civilized people and ſavages, who are bound by no ties of law or religion; and who, from their ſituation among woods, are even exempted from fear of puniſhment. Every day produces ſome great inconvenience to the civilized inhabitants, by their ſlaves being enticed away, and harboured by theſe ſavages; and a declaration of a war with France threatens almoſt inevitable ruin to the colony, as experience teaches us, that the efforts of the French would not be wanting in ſtirring up ſuch an enemy.

And we think that the ſale of the lands is no longer the moſt important object, but the honour of the Crown now becomes concerned for the protection of its ſubjects, againſt a race of lawleſs people, who, when prompted by liquor, or ill-deſigning perſons, may commit any kind of violence without being ſubject to controul.

We do not preſume to preſcribe any particular meaſures to your Lordſhips, but generally take the liberty of obſerving, that in our opinion, the moſt effectual means of reducing them to obedience, will be to carry a road through their country, under the protection of a ſufficient military force; and after allotting them proper lands for their comfortable

fortable ſubſiſtance, to ſell the remainder; which will very amply repay the expences incurred by the arrangement, and contribute to keep them in order, by mixing white inhabitants amongſt them. We are, with great reſpect, Right Honourable Lords,

Your Lordſhips
moſt obedient, and
moſt humble ſervants,

WILLIAM YOUNG,
JOHN HUNT,
ROBERT WYNNE,
WILLIAM HEWITT.

Commiſſioners Office at
Dominica, 16 Oct. 1771.

Report

Report of Mr. Maitland, and other perſons concerned in the Iſland of St. Vincent, to the Earl of Hillſborough.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Hillſborough, one of his Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordſhip having deſired our opinion concerning the expediency of continuing the Black Charibbs upon, or the neceſſity of removing them from the iſland of St. Vincent, and if to be removed, where to be ſent; we beg leave to obſerve that the negroes, called the Black Charibbs, are in poſſeſſion of full two thirds of the cultivable and richeſt land in the iſland, which they have frequently declared their reſolution not to quit one foot of; ſo that if they ſhould by any temporary force be compelled to yield up any part of their claim, they will, we apprehend, re-aſſert their pretended rights as ſoon as that force is removed, or their friends the French give them any ſupport.

So great a proportion of the iſland being in the hands of perſons who can in no manner contribute to the ſupport of the government of the iſland, either by paying their quota of the taxes, or by rendering their perſonal ſervices, neceſſarily throws an heavy burthen upon a very few, particularly as to the perſonal ſervices which are confined to his Majeſty's natural born ſubjects; the other white inhabitants being incapable, through their ignorance of the Engliſh language and cuſtoms, of performing thoſe duties. We farther beg leave to obſerve to your Lordſhip, that the parts of the iſland now in a ſtate of cultivation, and poſſeſſed by white perſons, are the moſt broken parts of the country; and that the weight of taxes has hitherto fallen ſo heavily upon the proprietors of thoſe tracts, that the legiſlature of the iſland have not yet been able to raiſe a fund for erecting a jail, court houſe, and other neceſſary public buildings, nor can (as we conceive) this buſineſs be ever accompliſhed in the preſent ſtate of the iſland; the conſtant expences of its government being the ſame, and the revenue to ſupport them being to be raiſed from means incapable of bearing greater exactions. We therefore think, that if the Black Charibbs were even di-

veſted of attachments to any other nation, and were well affected towards us, ſtill the colony would ceaſe to flouriſh while they remained in it; and probably would not long maintain the credit and conſequence it has already obtained. We hold ourſelves juſtified in this aſſertion, by the ſtop put to the progreſs of the cultivation and ſettlement of the colony for the laſt two years, during which time, neither the number of inhabitants, or the quantity of produce has increaſed; the firſt appearing by the muſter roll of the militia, and the other by the Cuſtom-houſe books.

We therefore beg leave to offer it as our opinion to your Lordſhip, that even ſuppoſing it practicable to eradicate from the minds of the Black Charibbs their preſent prejudices, and to reduce them to a temporary ſubjection, their inhabiting the iſland muſt ever prevent its farther progreſs towards a ſtate of proſperity. In point of conſequence, it might then hold its preſent ſtandard, but can never exceed it.

But from our knowledge of the temper, diſpoſition, and prejudices of thoſe ſavages, we do not hold our property in the iſland of St. Vincent, or the lives of the white inhabitants, to be for a day ſecure from their depredations and cruelty. As the grounds of this our opinion, we beg leave to repreſent to your Lordſhip, that with a tincture of as much of the Popiſh religion as was neceſſary to infuſe into them the ſtrongeſt prejudices againſt perſons they term Heretics, they have from their infancy conceived an attachment to the French, and their government, which has in no manner been diminiſhed ſince the ceſſion of the iſland; as they have conſtantly kept up an intercourſe with the French in their ſettlements, and have refuſed to hold the leaſt communication with the King's ſubjects, notwithſtanding the pains taken by his Majeſty's Commiſſioners, and by the legiſlative body of the iſland; and notwithſtanding the ſeparate attempts of the principal inhabitants of the iſland, to conciliate their minds, and reconcile them to our governent and people. The policy of the French not permitting them to teach theſe ſavages any thing more of religion than anſwered the purpoſe of prejudice, there ſubſiſts among them the utmoſt barbarity, which is not only practiſed by them upon each other, without any other puniſhment than what may ariſe from retaliation, but they, after encouraging our ſlaves to run away, have (upon their refuſal to work for them, or to go off to the French iſlands to be ſold) cruelly murdered them;

and

and though the Magiſtrates have at times received full informations of the facts, and of the names and places of abode of the perpetrators, yet they have not been able to procure their warrants to be executed, no conſtable or civil officer daring to approach the criminal, or even to enter their country on ſuch an errand; we do not conceive it poſſible to bind them to any terms, by ties either politic or religious. In ſupport of this opinion, we muſt obſerve to your Lordſhip, that upon the ceſſion of the iſland, when the fate of theſe ſavages ſeemed yet undetermined, they not only ſhewed the ſtrongeſt tokens of humility in their declarations and behaviour, but ſeemed eager to embrace the terms offered by government, which were to admit them to take the oaths of allegiance, and to be received as ſubjects; accordingly great numbers of them took the oaths, and at the ſame time ſhewed, by their own explanations, that they perfectly underſtood what they were about; and expreſſed themſelves much favoured and obliged by the footing on which they were put, readily conſented to give up ſuch lands as they could not themſelves cultivate.

For a time they ſhewed no other inſtance of diſaffection, but by keeping up their intercourſe with the French ſettlements, and declining the ſame with the inhabitants of the iſland; but as ſoon as four companies of the regiment ſtationed at St. Vincent, were ſent to Dominica, they immediately took up arms, and contrary to that allegiance they had juſt before ſworn to, ſtopt the ſurveyors from proceeding in their buſineſs, took priſoners a party of forty ſoldiers, encamped to protect the ſurveyors, diſavowed all allegiance to the King, to any ſubjection to the laws in expreſs and poſitive terms. The Commiſſioners being forbid by their inſtructions to uſe any force againſt the Charibbs, the Commander of the iſland thought himſelf obliged to deſiſt from any hoſtilities, and enter into a treaty with the ſavages, by which they were promiſed that no roads, or furthey ſurveys, ſhould be made for the preſent in the wood lands, if they would ſuffer the troops they had ſurrounded to return, which was accordingly done. Elated with this ſucceſs, and preſuming on the moderation of government, they no longer thought it neceſſary to carry even the appearance of ſubjection, but immediately diſpatched an embaſſy to Count D'Ennery, the Governor of Martinique, to inform him that they were now ready to cut off the Engliſh, and deſtroy all their ſettlement. To the humanity and honour of that officer (who

diſmiſſed

the Charibb Chiefs with not only the ſtrongeſt expreſſions of horror at their propoſal, but with threats) we hold ourſelves indebted for the preſervation of our eſtates and lives. Upon this repulſe, the ſavages again affected an humble tone, but ſtill kept up a communication with the French ſettlements, and conſtantly brought from thence, in return for the tobocco and fowls they ſold, fire arms and ammunition. About this time the legiſlature of the iſland paſſed a law for raiſing a Militia. To this event we firſt conceived we owed the ſubjection to which the Charibbs ſeemed to be reduced; for they, about the ſame time, ſent their Prieſt to the Commiſſioners, and to ſome of the principal inhabitants of the iſland, to aſſure them, they were ſenſible of their error; that they had been miſled; and that they were then ready to ſubmit in any manner the Commiſſioners required, both by giving up their lands, and acknowledging the King's ſovereignty. But it was ſoon diſcovered that theſe appearances were but an artifice to conceal the treachery they were then meditating, for there being at that time a diſpute between the courts of England and Spain, about Falkland's Iſland, which it was thought would terminate in an open rupture, and that the French would take a part in the war: the Charibbs were well informed of theſe circumſtances, and ſome of their Chiefs were conſtantly in waiting at Martinique, for orders from the new French Governor, Count D'Ennery, being at that time recalled: but the buſineſs being accommodated between the two courts, and Sir William Young going out ſoon after, with inſtructions ſtill more favourable to the Charibbs than any of the former, or than they ſeemed ever to have thought of themſelves, a fair opportunity now offered for their confirmation of their promiſes, but they thought it no longer neceſſary to continue the deceit. As to the manner in which they received Sir William Young, and the other Commiſſioners, about the month of June laſt, at a congreſs which they ſeemed only to conſider as an embaſſy from one ſtate to another, diſclaiming again the King's ſovereignty over them, and avowing their reſolution not to ſuffer any of the wood lands to be ſold, their refuſal to accept any of the preſents offered by the Commiſſioners, in token of amity; and the little reſerve ſhewn by them, in declaring that they were acting under the influence of the Governor of Martinique; we beg leave to refer your Lordſhip for farther particulars to the report which your Lordſhip may have received from the Board

of

of Commiſſioners. The danger in which the legiſlature of St. Vincent conſiders that iſland to be in at this inſtant is fully ſet forth in their late memorial, to which we alſo beg leave to refer your Lordſhip.

From the circumſtances we have related, and from many others which tend to our conviction, though too tedious to enumerate to your Lordſhip, we are perſuaded that no act or meaſure of government can preſerve the tranquillity of the iſland of St. Vincent, and put the property and lives of the inhabitants out of the danger of the inroads of the Black Charibbs, but their abſolute and immediate removal from the iſland. As to the keeping them in order by a ſuperior force, we muſt beg leave to obſerve to your Lordſhip, that the number of men able to bear arms double that of the colony. French deſerters from the regiments at Martinique have been ſeen among them, from which we conclude, they are trained to the uſe of arms; we therefore do not think, that even whilſt there continues a peace between England and France, that the peace of the iſland can be ſecured with leſs than two regiments; and in time of war, we cannot ſay what force will be neceſſary for the purpoſe; for the Black Charibbs being in poſſeſſion of a great part of the coaſt, the enemy will at all times be ſecure of a landing, and of being conducted by them to the back of our ſettlements, in ſpite of any force. St. Lucia is not above ſix or ſeven leagues to the northward of St. Vincent, and the northernmoſt bay of the laſt is in the poſſeſſion of the ſavages.

Should the Black Charibbs be once removed from the iſland, we conceive we then ſhall be able to put the Yellow Charibbs, or Aborigines, upon a footing as advantageous to St. Vincent, as the free negroes in Jamaica are upon to that iſland; for the French, conſidering the Yellow Charibbs too inſignificant to do them either good or harm, have left them free from the prejudices they have inſtilled into the others, by which they remain fit objects for our ſervice, as well as for our humanity and care; being inferior in number to the Whites already ſettled in the iſland, we ſhall be under no apprehenſions of danger from them.

Should it be his Majeſty's gracious will to remove thoſe ſavages, the Black Charibbs, from the iſland, we think it would be as conſiſtent with his Majeſty's preſent intentions, as his Majeſty's former humane conduct towards them, to permit them to name their own place of retreat, if they chooſe to do it; ſo as ſuch choice does not tend to endanger the other

colonies, or cauſe any breach of the treaties ſubſiiſting between England and other other ſtates. For as it is known that they have at times ſuppoſed that government intended to act in an hoſtile manner againſt them, and as their requeſt, at the laſt peace, to retire to the iſland St. Lucia, was refuſed by the French Governor, it cannot, we apprehend, be doubted, but they have fixed upon ſome other aſylum, to which it is probable they would now give the preference.

Should they not be immediately prepared to make ſuch a choice, or ſhould they not immediately agree among themſelves upon a place to retire to, or ſhould they name one exceptionable to government, we conceive that the removing them to the part of the world from whence their anceſtors came, would as much correſpond with their own inclinations, as with the clemency of his Majeſty's purpoſes. And we think that any unoccupied tract of 10,000 acres of wood land, upon any part of the coaſt of Africa, having one or more rivers running through it, would afford them all the neceſſaries of life which they have been accuſtomed to. The climate being the ſame as that of St. Vincent, makes cloathing no more neceſſary to them than before; and by living on a ſea coaſt, they would have the ſame opportunity of ſupporting themſelves by fiſhing, as they have now in St. Vincent. Or they might be placed on the iſland of St. Matthew, ſituated in lat. 2. 31. S. an iſland of much the ſame ſize as St. Vincent, is totally uninhabited; and, as we underſtand, claimed by no particular power, farther than what the Portugueſe may pretend to from their being the firſt diſcoverers; and which right, we preſume, gives them an equal title to St. Helena, and other parts not now in their poſſeſſion, though firſt diſcovered by them.

We are, &c.

RICHARD MAITLAND, Agent,
RICHARD OTTLEY,
JAMES GORDON,
C. P. SHARPE.
WILLIAM FITZPUGH.

Copie

Copie d'une Lettre de la part du Commandant de St. Lucie, au Gouverneur et Conſeillers Caraybes à l'Iſle de St. Vincent.

Au Gouvernement de St. Lucie ce Sept. 1771.

COMPERE Nous, notre Grand Général m'aporté plainte que pluſieurs Caraybes, auxquels ſa bonté paternel avoit permis de venir voir le Fort Royal, où ils ſe ſont bien comportés, avoit fait une deſcente en s'en allant à St. Pierre à la Caze Navire, où ils s'étoient diſputés avec un Papa, et que de là quelques Caraybes ont pris la hardieſſe de tirer des flêches ſur nos amis habitans de l'endroit, qui ont été obligé de les chaſſer à coups de fuſils ſans balles, ne voulant pas leur faire mal, parceque nos gens ſçavent bien, Comperes Nous, que vous allez tout de ſuite connoitre ceux qui ont faits faute, et que vous les punirez pour avoir manqué aux bons ordres et avis que vous leur donnés en partant d'étre ſages. Ainſi je vous previens, Comperes Nous, qui ſi vos gens s'aviſent encore de faire mal, et de ne pas reſpecter la grande bonté et amitié de notre Général lorſqu' ils ſeront à la Martinique, il defendera et empechera par des gros coups de canons que les piroques Caraybes ne mouillent au Fort Royal, ni à St. Pierre, ni dans aucun mouillage de toute la Martinique. Comperes Nous, j'en ferai autant; et vous avertis que je ne baillerai point de congé, ſi une autre fois notre Grand Général n'eſt pas content.

Adieu, Comperes Nous, &c.

Votre bon Superieur à St. Lucie,

Chevalier DEMICOUD,

Commandant à St. Lucie.

SUPERSCRIBED,

Aux Gouverneurs et Conſeillers Caraybes, Baremont, Bigot fils, Maſſolier, vieux Gabriel, et Pierre la Goudriere, Saladon, Joſeph, François, Joachin, et Jean Pierre des Parties du Vent Sous le Vent, et du Go Enbou.

à l'Iſle de St. Vincent.

Letter

Letter from Governor Leyborne to the Earl of Hillſborough.

Grenada, 30 November, 1771.

MY LORD,

I THINK it my duty to tranſmit to your Lordſhip the incloſed original letter from the Governor of St. Lucia, under a very extraordinary addreſs, which was intercepted, and has been ſent to me by the Preſident commanding at St. Vincent. It is obvious by this letter that the French have encouraged, and acknowledged the Charibbs to be an independent people, and ſeems to confirm the ſuſpicions that have been long entertained of their influence on their conduct. As I am afraid it will be impoſſible to bring thoſe ſavages to a proper ſenſe of duty to his Majeſty, by acknowledging his Sovereignty, and accepting of his favour and protection, I muſt beg leave to ſubmit to your Lordſhip's conſideration, whether it might not be proper to take ſome ſteps to force theſe people to obedience, ſince the gentle methods that were practiſed by Sir William Young had not the deſired effect, but, on the contrary, were looked upon to have proceeded from timidity; and as the regiments on this Government are expected ſhortly to be relieved, and we have ſo reſpectable a fleet in theſe ſeas, with the ſtate of tranquillity that now ſubſiſts with our neighbours, if force is ever to be uſed, I am humbly of opinion there is no time ſo proper as upon the relief of the troops.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WILLIAM L. LEYBORNE.

The

The Humble Addreſs and Memorial of the Council and Aſſembly of the Iſland of St. Vincent to His Majeſty, on the ſubject of the Charibbs, in that Iſland.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty.

WE your Majeſty's loyal and dutiful ſubjects the Council and Aſſembly of this your iſland of St. Vincent, on behalf of ourſelves, and every other inhabitant of this infant Colony, beg leave again to approach your Moſt Excellent Majeſty, and to repreſent to you in the ſtrongeſt terms the dangers with which we are ſurrounded, in order that your Majeſty may (before it is too late) direct ſuch vigorous meaſures to be taken, as we apprehend can alone ſecure the tranquillity of this iſland, or preſerve the lives and properties of your faithful ſubjects. And whatever reluctance we have to interrupt by our complaints, that happineſs which we pray your Majeſty may ever enjoy, yet a regard to the truſt repoſed in us for the common good of this Colony, will not permit us to be ſilent under circumſtances ſo alarming as the preſent: being anxious that whenever any of thoſe dreadful events happen, which we too well foreſee, we may at leaſt be conſcious of having diſcharged our duty, and left nothing in our conduct, either to reproach ourſelves with, or to expoſe us to the cenſure of others, who muſt ſuffer in the general ruin.

The fears and apprehenſions expreſſed in our former addreſs to your Majeſty, with reſpect to the Charibbs of this iſland, are now become certain dangers; and the acquiſition of their lands (however valuable it might prove to your Majeſty's revenue) has for ſome time paſt been only a ſecondary, and very inferior object, having yielded to a more important and natural conſideration, the ſecurity of our property, and the ſafety of our perſons. For, by the facts which are to be the ſubject of our preſent addreſs, we are perſuaded that your Majeſty will obſerve with concern the unhappy ſituation of your ſubjects, and will at the ſame time be convinced, that the only alternative left this day to the Britiſh Crown, is this, either tamely to acknowledge that it has no right of Sovereignty in the lands of the Charibbs, or to conſider them as a neſt of moſt dangerous and inſolent rebels.

Encouraged and ſupported by a few individuals (who, regardleſs of your Majeſty's rights, and of the public ſecurity, have made private contracts with theſe ſavages for the lands they occupy, through your Royal Clemency) the Charibbs are now taught to deny the right of the Britiſh Crown to the moſt conſiderable part of the iſland of St. Vincent, and to affect an independent neutrality, as well as an exemption from all civil juriſdiction or ſubordination whatſoever; yet a few months ſince, when we daily expected to be involved in war, they but too plainly betrayed the ſtrong attachment they had to that nation, with whoſe ſubjects and language they have been ſo long converſant, and whoſe intereſt they are ready at any time to eſpouſe, to the prejudice of thoſe of your Majeſty, and to the ſacrifice of our lives and fortunes. It was not to your Majeſty's Governor, but to the Governor at Martinique, that they reſorted at that juncture; it was not your alliance and protection, but that of France, they then courted; in a word, it was with the French, and not with us, they offered to join arms, when they expected a rupture between the two nations. The good reception and encouragement they met with from the French General, was hardly juſtifiable even at that ſeaſon; but the continuance of their intercourſe in the midſt of peace, and the ſtyle of the correſpondence lately diſcovered between the Governor of St. Lucia and theſe rebellious people, are inſults offered to your Majeſty's Crown, and the cleareſt proof of the advantages the French intend to derive, in time of war, by preſerving a good underſtanding with the Charibbs. In this ſituation, what ſafety, what tranquillity can we hope for? What have we not to fear, ſurrounded by lawleſs ſavages in ſtrength and number far ſuperior to ourſelves, and now notoriouſly at the diſpoſal, and ready implicitly to obey the commands of a foreign enemy.

From theſe circumſtances, your Majeſty will little wonder at the repeated ill ſucceſs which your Commiſſioners have met with in their treaties with the Charibbs. Not content with refuſing to relinquiſh the leaſt part of thoſe vaſt tracts of land, which they hold in a manner uſeleſs to themſelves, and prejudicial to your Majeſty in every reſpect, they have at laſt, in a ſolemn meeting of their Chiefs, given their final determination not to accept of your proffered protection, or gracious intentions towards them, and never to ſwear allegiance to your Majeſty, or conſider themſelves as governed by, or ſubject to the

Crown

Crown of Great Britain. And juſt now, when a due attention to your Majeſty's rights, and to the ſafety of this iſland, had induced the legiſlature to exert their authority to compel the intruders to quit poſſeſſion of the Crown lands, the Charibbs, inſtigated no doubt by thoſe diſappointed adventurers, have again blocked up the road cloſe to the windwardmoſt ſettlement made by your Majeſty's ſubjects. Thus are we daily expoſed to the inſults of ſavages, who, whilſt they travel armed and unmoleſted through our country at pleaſure, forbid us every intercourſe or communication with their lands; and we are forced tamely to ſubmit (within the narrow compaſs of a ſmall iſland) to ſee a diſtinct race of lawleſs people paſs and repaſs amongſt us, over whom (let them commit what foul crimes or diſorders they pleaſe) our civil policy has neither juriſdiction nor authority.

Permit us to obſerve, with all due reſpect, that your Majeſty's ſubjects in this iſland purchaſed the Crown lands at no inconſiderable prices; and that they have adventured their health and fortune, and ſtrained their utmoſt credit, in the proſecution of ſettlements already beneficial, and likely to be extremely advantageous to your Majeſty's Revenue. This they did under firm aſſurance of your royal protection; and that nothing would be wanting to put their perſons and properties on as ſecure a footing as thoſe of ſubjects in the ſiſter iſlands. They hoped too, that ere long the moſt valuable parts of the iſland were to be ſettled in like manner, by other Britiſh ſubjects, whoſe numbers would have added ſtrength and ſecurity to the poſſeſſions of the whole; and who, by bearing a ſhare of the public taxes and duties, would in ſome meaſure have eaſed the firſt ſettlers from a burthen which they are but little able to ſupport. Inſtead of theſe proſpects, we have the melancholy one of beholding our lives and properties left to the mercy of ſavages, bound by no ties civil or religious, diſaffected to your Majeſty, and ill-diſpoſed towards your ſubjects; of ſeeing the whole extenſive windward ſide of the iſland in their poſſeſſion, and likely ever to remain in a ſtate of nature, uſeleſs to your Majeſty, and dangerous to ourſelves; of finding ourſelves without a military force ſufficient to reduce the Indians to obedience, or even to defend us againſt them in caſe of an attack; and of foreſeeing, that if theſe our inteſtine enemies are ſtill ſuffered to remain in the country on their preſent footing, a declaration of war between your Majeſty and the Crown of France,

at

at any future day, will be opened with the immediate deſtruction of all your Majeſty's rights, and our poſſeſſions, and perhaps too with the maſſacre of all your ſubjects in this iſland of St. Vincent.

It is not for us to dictate to the wiſdom of your Majeſty's Councils, what meaſures to reſolve on in ſo dangerous a criſis, yet we cannot but obſerve, that the ſuffering ſuch a ſeparate empire as theſe Indians claim, within your Majeſty's dominions, is not only incompatible with the ſafety of your ſubjects, but highly derogatory from the honour and dignity of the Britiſh Crown; that lenity, and every humane expedient to bring them to a reaſonable ſubjection, has now been long tried without ſucceſs; that with natures incapable of gratitude or ſentiment, the mild hand of benevolence evidently loſes its effect; and laſtly, that a continuance of the ſame indulgences to the Charibbs will only ſerve (as it has already done) to increaſe their inſolence, and cannot fail of being eventually the greateſt cruelty to the ſubjects of this iſland.

HEN. SHARPE, Preſident.

JOHN GILBERT, Speaker of the Aſſembly.

Extract

Extract of a letter from Gov. Melvill to Lord Hillſborough, dated Grenada, 5th July, 1770.

I Obſerve what your Lordſhip ſays, in relation to the free negroes or black inhabitants of St. Vincent (who having partly intermixed with the native Yellow Indians, are pretty commonly ſtiled here the Black Charibbs, and ſometimes in England the Wild Negroes).

There have been lately here, about 50 of the moſt ſenſible of them, in three different boats, and they have been at much pains with me, to expreſs their high reſpect for, and obedience to his Majeſty's government, denying any attachment to the French; and ſaying that this is only alledged againſt them by their enemies, who want to ſell or buy their lands, and have made the King angry with them, who gave ſuch good orders about them at firſt, and would not have taken any of their lands from them, but have left them quietly to poſſeſs them, or ſell them at their own price; meaning thereby, as I underſtood, chiefly, if not entirely, the parcels of land which they actually occupy, and are living on. In anſwer, I did allow their having behaved themſelves very quietly at all times while I have been in the government, but reproached them with three things.

Firſt, That they had not obeyed, but in a very ſmall number, a proclamation which I had iſſued, in conformity to his Majeſty's inſtructions, and by the advice of the Council of St. Vincent, in 1767, requiring them to come in and take the oaths, as faithful ſubjects to King.

Secondly, That they had been always in the practice of carrying on an illicit trade with the French iſlands, and bringing fire arms and ammunition from them. And

Laſtly, That they had obſtructed, and at laſt prevented, the compleating of a road in their country, and other operations by his Majeſty's Commiſſioners, acting by his Majeſty's orders.

As to the firſt, ſome only aſſerted their not having heard of, others their not having well underſtood the proclamation; but all affirmed, that it did not proceed from any attachment to the King of France, or a want of *it* to our King.

As to the ſecond, they did not deny it, but endeavoured to extenuate their intercourſe with the French iſlands, by ſaying it was not ſo great as alledged, but only that ſome went to ſell tobacco, and other little articles, which they could not do with us, and might ſometimes bring back fire arms and ammunition, which was only for the uſe of killing game in the woods; perſiſting likewiſe, that the ſtory of the ſkirmiſh between the canoes and the Engliſh ſloop, was an abſolute falſhood, as it really appears to have been. And,

As to the laſt of my charges, they ſaid they did not believe it was the King himſelf, but thoſe that were their enemies, and had intereſt to be againſt them, that wanted to ſell or buy their lands without their own conſent; and which the King would not do, if he knew they were deſirous of remaining quiet and good ſubjects.

Whether theſe people have been perſuaded to hold this language by ſome perſons at St. Vincent, or induced by ſome ideas getting amongſt them, that an extraordinary force is to be brought to over awe them, I know not; but although I never had any inſtructions relating to them, ſince the general ones (which were ſo indulgent and favourable) excepting an order to give the Commiſſioners all proper ſupport and aſſiſtance in their operations reſpecting them, yet I thought it a part of my general duty, as Governor of St. Vincent, to diſmiſs them, as far as I could, with ſtrong impreſſions of obedience to the King; and therefore concluded with detailing to them the great power of his Majeſty, as well as his eminent juſtice, humanity, and goodneſs; and ſtrongly recommended to them, not only as a duty, but for their own ſakes, to reſpect and obey his authority in all caſes whatever, through the Commiſſioners, or others.

With ſuch diſpoſitions they have apparently gone back, and I hope they will equally communicate them to all the reſt.

Extract

Extract of a letter from the Earl of Hillſborough to Governor Melvill, dated Whitehall, 21 April, 1770.

" THESE, Sir, are all the commands I have to ſignify to you from his Majeſty, relative to the iſland of Grenada; nor am I yet able to give you any particular inſtructions with reſpect to the iſland of St. Vincent, which, on account of its ſituation with reſpect to the Black Charibbs, is ſo much an object of attention.

" The meaſures which it may be proper to purſue, for inducing thoſe ſavages to acknowledge his Majeſty's ſovereignty, and to ſubmit to the juſt and humane conditions which have been offered to them, are now under conſideration, and proper inſtructions will be given in time, for any operation it may be thought adviſeable to enter upon. In the mean time it ought to be well conſidered, whether it may not be neceſſary for the general ſecurity of that iſland, that ſome batteries ſhould be erected for the defence of the principal harbours and landing places, and what cannon and ſtores will be wanted. And as I have no papers before me, that will enable me to judge with preciſion of what may be requiſite for this purpoſe, it is the King's pleaſure, that if there is an engineer at Grenada that can be ſpared, he ſhould be employed in making ſuch ſurvey of the iſland of St. Vincent, as will enable you to make a full report to me of what ſhall be judged neceſſary, both as to the places where it may be proper to erect batteries, and what cannon and ſtores it will be proper to ſend from hence."

Letter

Letter from Lieutenant Governor Fitzmaurice to the Earl of Hillſborough, dated Grenada, 12th Feb. 1770.

MY LORD,

SINCE I have laſt had the honour of writing to your Lordſhip, concerning the Charibbs of St. Vincent, no event has happened there, by which a judgment may be formed, what their conduct is likely to prove, whenever his Majeſty's inſtructions for the ſale of the lands, on the windward ſide of that iſland, ſhall be carried into execution; at preſent, however, they appear to be quiet; nor has any diſturbance happened in conſequence of the impriſonment of one of their Chiefs, who is accuſed of having ſet fire to the houſe of a perſon in whom they formerly had confidence, but who they thought had betrayed them.

In this ſituation, I have not thought myſelf at liberty to make any requiſition of troops from the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's forces in North America. But I ſtill apprehend it will be prudent, if not abſolutely neceſſary, whenever meaſures are taken for the diſpoſal of the lands claimed by the Charibbs, to have a greater force than is at preſent in theſe iſlands, in order to retain them in that awe and ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty's pleaſure concerning them, which the mildeſt treatment cannot alone inſure from a people on whoſe profeſſions there can be no dependence.

I am, &c.

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Extract

Extract from the Report of the Commiſſioners for the Sale of Lands in the Ceded Iſlands, to the Lords Commiſſioners for Trade and Plantations, dated July 26th, 1769.

HAVING finiſhed every thing neceſſary for this year at Grenada, we embarked for St. Vincent, where, in obedience to our inſtructions from the Right Honourable the Lord Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, relating to the ſettlement of the windward part of that iſland, before we attempted any meaſures that might occaſion the leaſt alarm amongſt the Charibbs, we had taken every precaution directed by their Lordſhips, and uſed all poſſible means of making them acquainted with his Majeſty's gracious diſpoſition towards them; and for that purpoſe employed different perſons, whom we thought to have the greateſt influence over them as emiſſaries, to explain the arrangements intended; and had ſeveral interviews with many of them in their own country, where we went to meet. From the temper of thoſe with whom we converſed, and the reports we had of the ſentiments of the reſt, we did not conceive any difficulty would ariſe in the execution of their Lordſhips inſtructions, we therefore directed te Surveyors to begin a road at the river Coubimaron, which is the boundary of the country claimed by the Charibbs; judging that the moſt uſeful ſtep to ſet out with, as it would open a communication with the ſettled part of the iſland, and thereby render the land more valuable, give an opportunity of diſcovering the number and ſituation of the Charibbs, and at the ſame time greatly facilitate the ſurvey of the country. With this road the Surveyors proceeded to a place called Maſſerica, about eight miles diſtant, in a ſtrait line from where they began. In the courſe of their work they were met with ſome few Indians, who appeared diſcontented at the progreſs of the road, and heard rumours of an intended oppoſition to the continuation of it, which induced us to requeſt of the Governor of the iſland, a party of ſolders to protect the Surveyors in the execution of their duty. After the party was granted, the buſineſs was for ſome time carried on without interruption, or further ſhew of diſcontent amongſt the Charibbs, in ſo much that it was judged inconvenient and unneceſſary,

that

that the regiment ſhould have a large detachment at ſo great a diſtance from the barracks, no more than a Serjeant's guard was continued. On the approach of the Surveyors near Maſſerica, it was thought proper to build ſome new huts, and to advance the ſoldiers more into the country, that they might be at hand, to give any aſſiſtance, if required. This occaſioned freſh diſcontents, and it was therefore judged neceſſary to increaſe the guard to the number of forty men; who, on march towards the huts prepared for their reception, were ſtopped by ſome of the Black Indians, acquainting them, that a large party was aſſembled, and determined to oppoſe their taking poſſeſſion of the huts; and that they would not ſuffer the Engliſh to carry on the road into the country, or to have any ſettlement there; and that they did not acknowledge any obedience to the King of Great Britain, or to the French King, being a free people. To theſe threats the ſoldiers paid no attention, but marched up to the poſt, where they diſcovered a party of Indians aſſembled, about three hundred in number, well armed, who after ſome altercations, were prevailed upon by arguments, to retire to a ſmall diſtance, where they remained in arms. Soon afterwards intelligence was brought to the Preſident of the iſland, that the Indians had ſurrounded the party poſted in the country, and cut off their communication of the road, ſo that no proviſions or ſuccours could be conveyed to them, which occaſioned a conſiderable alarm in the iſland, and it was judged expedient to march out the remainder of the regiment to their relief. Sir William Young being the only Commiſſioner on the iſland, thought proper, on behalf of the Board, to communicate to the Preſident our inſtructions on this ſubject, and was clearly of opinion, that nothing was to be undertaken in the preſent weak ſtate of the colony, that might endanger the peace and ſecurity of; and that by the inſtructions, no authority was given to commence hoſtilities; and as it appeared impracticable to carry into execution the plan for ſettling that part of the country, in the manner directed by their Lordſhips (that is with a mild and gentle hand) that he did no longer require the aid of his Majeſty's troops to ſupport the Surveyors; as will appear by his letter to the Preſident, a copy of which we have the honour herewith to tranſmit to your Lordſhip, and by the other letters which are alſo ſent, your Lordſhips may be the better enabled to judge of the behaviour of the Charibbs on this occaſion.

At

At a meeting of the Board ſoon afterwards, Sir William Young communicated to the Commiſſioners what had paſt, and what he had declared on their behalf to the Preſident, which was unanimouſly approved of; and orders were immediately given to the Surveyors to deſiſt from any further ſurveys in the country.

Notwithſtanding this caution, and the great pains ſince taken to aſſure the Charibbs they would be permitted to remain in perfect peace and tranquillity till the King's further pleaſure ſhould be known, and that their ſafety and happineſs depended on their future good behaviour, they have even proceeded to acts of violence without the leaſt provocation; they have blocked up in many places the high road we had cauſed to be traced into the country; burnt the houſes of a perſon employed by us on behalf of his Majeſty, merely becauſe he had been uſeful in the ſervice; and have threatened other outrages, and particularly (as we have received intelligence) formed a deſign to burn his Majeſty's barracks at Prince's Bay, built at a very great expence, and in the center of a ſettled part of the country, at a great diſtance from what they inhabit or claim.

The inſtructions we have now from their Lordſhips, are, in our humble opinions, as proper any that could have been deviſed, for the purpoſe of ſettling the windward part of the country; but experience now ſhews us, that it will be impoſſible, without imminent danger to the colony, to compleat any ſettlements or arrangements with them, let the terms propoſed be every ſo tender or advantageous, without a force ſufficient to reſtrain and awe them into obedience; for which purpoſe it will be highly neceſſary to have a conſiderable military force upon the iſland, before we again attempt to carry our inſtructions into execution, as we find their numbers greatly exceed what we formerly apprehended.

We have the greateſt reaſon to think that ſuffering the Charibbs to remain in their preſent ſtate will be very dangerous, and may at ſome period prove fatal to the inhabitants of the country, as their ſituation, ſurrounded with woods, makes any acceſs to them, for the purpoſe of executing juſtice, totally impracticable; and they will from thence be capable of committing all outrages unpuniſhed; of harbouring the ſlaves of the inbitants

habithants of the iſland, as well as of all the neighbouring iſlands; of ſheltering amongſt them vagabonds and deſerters from the French; and, in caſe of a rupture with France, it is probable, they will join in diſtreſſing the inhabitants, and in attempting to conquer the iſland.

We can now aſſure your Lordſhips, that the country is full as extenſive as it was even repreſented; the ſoil excellent, and perfectly well adapted to the cultivation of ſugar; and if the plan of ſettlement is carried into execution, will be equal to any of his Majeſty's iſlands in thoſe ſeas.

Repreſentation

Repreſentation of the Board of Trade to the King, dated 29th March, 1770.

To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE Commiſſioners for the ſale of your Majeſty's lands in the Ceded Iſlands, in the Weſt Indies, having made to us a report of their proceedings in the laſt year, in the execution of their commiſſion, which report we did not receive till this day, we think it our duty to loſe no time in humbly laying before your Majeſty the annexed extract of ſo much of the ſaid report as relates to their tranſactions in the iſland of St. Vincent; to the difficulties they met with in carrying their inſtructions into execution in that iſland, from the oppoſition given to the ſurvey thereof by the Black Charibbs; and to the peril and danger to which the inhabitants of the ſaid iſland, and the ſecurity of the iſland itſelf ſtands expoſed, from the hoſtile and violent diſpoſition of thoſe ſavages; and as we do entirely concur in opinion with your Majeſty's ſaid Commiſſioners, that it will be impoſſible, without imminent danger to the Colony, to complete the ſettlement of that very important and valuable iſland, without ſuch a conſiderable military force as ſhall be ſufficient to induce the ſaid ſavages to acknowledge your Majeſty's title to St. Vincent, and to ſubmit to the meaſures ordered by your Majeſty to be purſued for the ſettlement of it: We therefore humbly beg leave to ſubmit this matter to your Majeſty, as requiring immediate conſideration.

Which is moſt humbly ſubmitted,

SOAME JENYNS,
GEO. RICE,
WM. FITZHERBERT,
LISBURNE.

Whitehall, 29th March, 1770.

The Memorial of ſundry Proprietors of Lands in St. Vincent, now in London, in behalf of themſelves and the Planters of that Iſland.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT nearly two thirds of the cultivable and beſt lands of St. Vincent, remain in the poſſeſſion of the Black Charibbs, but a very ſmall proportion of which has ever yet been cleared of woods, as may appear upon examination of a map in the poſſeſſion of Sir William Young, his Majeſty's firſt Commiſſioner for the ſale of lands in the Ceded Iſlands.

That by the culture of ſuch lands as are at preſent, and muſt for ever be unneceſſary to that people, his Majeſty's revenue will be greatly increaſed; and, from the acceſſion of inhabitants, the iſland may, in ſome degree, be rendered defenſible.

That in obedience to his Majeſty's inſtructions to his Commiſſioners to ſell ſuch lands as ſhall remain unoccupied, after allotting to the Charibbs very ſufficient quantities for their ſupport and happineſs, every meaſure had been purſued by the Commiſſioners that could tend to conciliate their affections, and make them ſenſible of his Majeſty's moſt gracious intentions reſpecting them.

That they nevertheleſs, from groundleſs fears and jealouſies, aſſembled in arms, very much to the terror of the inhabitants; that they denied the Sovereignty of the King, and obliged the Surveyors to retire with precipitation from that part of the country, as hath been before repreſented in an addreſs to his Majeſty from the legiſlature.

That they live without order, or any laws for their good government; that the barbarities exerciſed by them upon the native Indians, who firſt afforded them protection, have been ſuch, that the few who are left alive, have been compelled to ſeek an aſylum amongſt his Majeſty's ſubjects.

That they applied to Count D'Ennery, the Governor of Martinique, for aſſiſtance of men and arms to drive the Engliſh from the iſland; and propoſed to him, on their parts, to ſet fire to their ſettlements.

That they ſeized and ſold, in the neighbouring French iſlands, ſeveral negroe ſlaves belonging to the planters of St. Vincent; ſome of whom

whom were very lately reſtored to their owners by order of the French Governor.

That it is not the wiſh of your memorialiſts, from what hath been related, that the Charibbs ſhould be otherwiſe dealt with than in a manner entirely becoming humanity. They pray only that his Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to extend his protection to themſelves, that as they deſire not the deſtruction of others, they be ſecured in their own lives and properties; which they humbly conceive can never be effected whilſt the Charibbs are permitted to remain in their preſent lawleſs ſtate, and poſſeſſors of ſo conſiderable a ſhare of the iſland; through which, in a future war, his Majeſty's ſubjects will at all times be expoſed to the ſudden incurſions of an enemy.

That your memorialiſts believe, from their knowledge of the nature and diſpoſitions of the Charibbs, that if a force ſufficient to reduce them was ſpeedily to be ſent to the iſland, they would acknowledge the Sovereignty and Domain of his Majeſty; and that every neceſſary arrangement might be made with facility, and perhaps without the loſs of one life.

That your memorialiſts do not apprehend that any other force would be requiſite to effect this purpoſe, than the addition of a regiment to the one already in the iſland, with a detachment from that in Antigua; and ſuch other aſſiſtance as may be conveniently given by the Commander of his Majeſty's ſquadron, ſtationed in thoſe ſeas.

That if the above forces arrive in St. Vincent ſome time in the month of April, your memorialiſts are perſuaded, that the whole buſineſs may be compleated before the wet ſeaſon ſets in.

Your memorialiſts further repreſent to your Lordſhip, that the iſland of St. Vincent, from the want of proper forts and batteries, is in ſo defenceleſs a ſtate, that it will, in time of war, be conſtantly expoſed to the attacks of privateers; from which a number of the enemy may at any time land and deſtroy the eſtates, without a poſſibility of any effectual oppoſition being made; and that although orders ſhould be immediately ſent for the purpoſe, yet the difficulty of procuring artificers to undertake and build public works is ſo great, that much time muſt neceſſarily elapſe in carrying them into execution.

That they apprehend your Lordſhip will think the iſland of St. Vincent well worth the particular attention of Government, when

your

your Lordſhip ſhall be pleaſed to conſider, that in the firſt place its own reſources have, even in its infant ſtate, exceeded the expence of its ſupport; and in the next, that what your memorialiſts now require for the defence of the iſland, is leſs than will be the amount of the duty upon ſugar from it, to be imported this year only into England, although not one ſixth part of the land be yet planted with canes.

That although they have purchaſed their lands of the Crown at great prices (the purchaſe-money not yet ſatisfied) have expended large ſums of money in the cultivation and ſettlement of their eſtates; and although they are obliged to pay a heavy iſland tax, there being no leſs than ſix thouſand pounds ſterling raiſed in the year 1769, beſides parochial aſſeſſments for the ſupport of incumbents, repairs of churches, maintenance of the poor, &c. beſides taxes raiſed in the towns for their better regulation; and rather a probability of the country tax increaſing than diminiſhing, as no funds have yet been raiſed for erecting gaols, and other public buildings; yet as they are deſirous to manifeſt their affectionate duty to his Majeſty, and to ſhew themſelves in every inſtance deſerving of the care and protection of his Government, they are ſatisfied (unequal as they are at preſent to ſuch an additional burthen) to lay the tax of 4 and a half per cent. by a law of their own legiſlature, upon the ſame eſtabliſhment as it is laid and levied in Barbadoes, by an act of that iſland, in expectation that proper arrangements be made to ſecure their properties from the attacks of an enemy, and their families from the inſults and maſſacre of ſavages. That a ſum not exceeding 20,000l. be granted for putting the iſland in a proper ſtate of defence; and that a regiment be ſtationed in it.

All which matters your memorialiſts humbly beg leave to offer to your Lordſhips conſideration, and to requeſt your Lordſhips interceſſion with his Majeſty on their behalf; and your memorialiſts ſhall ever pray, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD MAITLAND, Agent,
THO. HACKSHAW,
WAT. JENKINS,
WM. YOUNG,
RICHARD OTTLEY,
C. P. SHARPE,
WM. FITZHUGH.

London, 22d Jan. 1770.

Depoſition

Depoſition of John Quinland.

St. Vincent.

BEFORE Gilbert Gillock, Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for ſaid iſland, perſonally appeared John Quinland, maſter of the ſloop Ranger, who being duly ſworn on the Holy Evangeliſt of Almighty God, depoſeth and ſayeth:

That on the 21ſt inſtant he departed from the Bay of Kingſton, in the ſaid iſland, to cruize between that and St. Lucia, purſuant to orders received from the Preſident of ſaid iſland; on which ſtation he continued till the 24th, when he ſteer'd for and came to an anchor, about five in the morning, in the Bay of Souffriere, at St. Lucia; that on his arrival there he ſent his boat along the coaſt, to ſee if there were any Indian canoes in the out-bays, but not finding any, the next day he got under ſail, and ſtood along the ſhore of St. Lucia to the Southward; and afterwards being two leagues in the channel between that iſland and St. Vincent, he diſcovered four canoes, which proved Black Charibbs, and each canoe to have nineteen or more of thoſe people on board; that he fired to bring them to, in order to examine them, agreeable to his orders; on which they immediately pulled down their ſails, and took to their paddles, making towards the ſloop as faſt as they could; that the ſloop at that time was becalmed; and perceiving them in coming up to lay hold of ſome muſquets, and having but nine men on board, he made ſigns for only one of the canoes to approach at a time; that notwithſtanding they perſiſted to come up together, on which he fired into them, which they returned, and rowed on with a ſeeming intention to board the veſſel; that ſoon after this he ſunk one of the canoes at a diſtance, and a little time after another, the crews of which took to ſwimming with cutlaſſes in their mouths, and made directly towards the ſloop, which they very near reached when he ſunk the other canoes as they came along ſide; that they ſtill perſiſted to board, which he prevented by oppoſing them as they endeavoured to get up the ſides, by deſtroy-

ing them with bayonets; that by this means he killed moſt of them; and the wind ſpringing up, he left thoſe that remained to ſhift for themſelves. The deponent further adds, that their canoes were loaded with kegs, from which he ſaw them ſupply themſelves with cartridges to load their arms; and that early in the engagement, he had two men killed and one wounded.

Signed,

Sworn before me this
29th of Auguſt, 1769.

JOHN QUINLAND.

Signed

G. HILLOCK.

Orders

Orders for the Maſters of the armed Veſſels.

YOU are to cruize about the iſland in ſuch places as from time to time ſhall appear to you moſt expedient; and in caſe of your meeting with any party of Charibbs, who have been guilty of any hoſtility in any part of the iſland, or to any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, you are to do your endeavours to apprehend any ſuch Charibbs; and in caſe of their reſiſtance, or you being able to apprehend them without force, you are to take all neceſſary meaſures for compelling them to ſubmiſſion; and in caſe of your having intelligence of any ſuch party of offending Charibbs, you are immediately to purſue them.

In caſe of your meeting, or ſeeing at ſea, or along the coaſt, any party of Charibbs, whom you may have cauſe to ſuſpect to be going on any ill deſign, to any part of the iſland, or ſhall meet or ſee more than two pirogues of Charibbs in company, you ſhall apprehend the ſame; and in caſe of their reſiſtance, you are to uſe neceſſary means to compel them. In caſe you ſhall ſee or meet any Charibbs at ſea, carrying from the iſland any ſlaves, or any of them importing into the iſland any prohibited commodities, or arms, ammunition, or warlike ſtores, you are to apprehend them; and in caſe of reſiſtance, to uſe neceſſary means to compel them.

Signed,

HENRY SHARPE.

Letter

Letter from Leiutenant Governor Fitzmaurice, to the Earl of Hillſborough.

Grenada, September 24th, 1769.

My Lord,

UPON repeated information given to the Preſident of St. Vincent, that there was a conſtant communication maintained between the refractory Charibbs, and the inhabitants of the French iſland of St. Lucia; and by whom the former were ſupplied with warlike ammunition, as well as other foreign merchandiſe prohibited, to be imported into Britiſh colonies, an armed veſſel, by the direction of the two branches of the legiſlature, and the inſtructions of which I incloſe a copy to your Lordſhip, were prepared by the Council, and given by the Preſident to the Captain; in conſequence of which he ſoon met in the channel, between St. Vincent and St. Lucia, four canoes, with a conſiderable number of armed Charibbs, who not only reſiſted, but attacked and endeavoured to board him. The account of the proceedings is contained in the depoſition of the Captain, which is here incloſed, and of which there is no reaſon to doubt the truth. What effect this event may produce is not eaſy to foreſee; but I have not ſince heard of any diſturbance.

The inhabitants of that colony are however impatient to learn his Majeſty's intentions concerning theſe Indians, and are frequently apprehenſive of ſudden attacks from them; the greateſt dread ſeems to be, that they will ſet fire to the buildings and plantations; the preſence of the troops have probably contributed to prevent hitherto ſuch attempts. I have the honour to be, with great reſpect,

My Lord,
Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient
and moſt humble Servant,

ULYSSES FITZMAURICE.

Letter from the Earl of Hillſborough *to the Lords of the* Admiralty.

My LORDS, WHITEHALL, April 16, 1772.

THE King having thought fit to direct Lieutenant General Gage to ſend a force from North America to the Iſland of St. Vincent, in order to reduce the black Charibbs of that iſland to a due ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty's authority and government, and it being of material conſequence to the ſucceſs of this expedition, that during the operation of the King's troops, all intercourſe ſhould be prevented between thoſe people and the French King's ſubjects, in the iſlands of Martinico and St. Lucca, and that the Charibbs ſhould be convinced of the impoſſibility of their eſcaping to either of thoſe iſlands. It is his Majeſty's pleaſure, that your Lordſhips do give the neceſſary directions to the commander of his Majeſty's ſhips upon the Leeward Iſland ſtation, for the effectuating theſe purpoſes, and that he do give all the aſſiſtance in his power in the conveyance to, and from the different iſlands, of the troops which may be neceſſary to be ſent to St. Vincents, and, in general, in whatever elſe may conduce to the carrying his Majeſty's intentions into execution, for the reduction of theſe rebellious ſavages.

And it is alſo his Majeſty's pleaſure, that in caſe the Governor of Grenada ſhall find it neceſſary to remove the Charibbs from St. Vincents, the Commander of his Majeſty's ſhips do appoint a proper convoy for the tranſports that are to convey them, to take care, on the one hand, to prevent or repreſs any attempts they may make againſt the maſters of the tranſports, and on the other, that they be treated, during their paſſage, with all the humanity their ſituation will admit of, and when ſet on ſhore, that the ſupplies intended for them be faithfully delivered.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lords of the Admiralty.

Letter from the Earl of Hillsborough *to Lord Viſcount* Barrington, *Secretary at War.*

My Lord, Whitehall, April 16, 1772.

THE King having thought fit, upon the repreſentations that have been made to his Majeſty, of the danger to which the iſland of St. Vincent is expoſed, from the hoſtile and rebellious diſpoſition of the Charibbs, to ſignify his commands, that a military force ſhould be employed, to reduce them to a ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty's government, and that ſuch military force ſhould conſiſt of ſuch part of the troops now ſtationed in the Ceded Iſlands, as can be ſpared from other neceſſary duties, and two regiments be ſent from North America, and that they ſhould, if required by Governor Leyborne, be joined by the regiment in the Leeward Iſlands; I have accordingly ſignified his Majeſty's commands for that purpoſe to Lieutenant General Gage, to Governor Leyborne, to Sir William Young, and to Sir Ralph Payne, and I am to acquaint your Lordſhip, that it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do give ſuch directions in conſequence thereof, as belong to your Lordſhip's department.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lord Viſcount Barrington.

Letter from the Earl of Hillſborough *to Governor* Leyborne.

Separate and Secret.

WHITEHALL, April 18, 1772.

SIR,

SINCE my Letter to you of the 4th of March laſt, your diſpatch, No. 3, and the addreſs of the Council and Aſſembly of St. Vincent, concerning the Charibbs, have been made the ſubject matter of the ſerious deliberations of his Majeſty's confidential ſervants.

The repreſentations contained in that addreſs, and in a Letter from the Commiſſioners for the Sale of Lands to the Lords of the Treaſury, of the danger to which the Iſland is expoſed, from the hoſtile diſpoſition of the Charibbs, and the declarations they have made, that they not only will never ſubmit themſelves as ſubjects to his Majeſty, but on the contrary, of their attachment to the crown of France, have induced the King, upon the opinion of his Majeſty's ſervants, to reſolve to take effectual meaſures for the reduction of them, as the only means of giving ſecurity to the ſettlements of his Majeſty's ſubjects in that Iſland.

It is hoped, that the troops now diſperſed in the ſeveral iſlands under your Government, and in Dominica, when ſo many of them as can be ſpared from other neceſſary duty, are collected together, and joined by two battalions from North America, will be a force ſufficient for this ſervice; and I have accordingly ſignified his Majeſty's commands to general Gage, that he do, as ſoon as poſſible, ſend two battalions of the troops under his command to the iſland of St. Vincent; and I have alſo ſignified his Majeſty's pleaſure to Sir Ralph Payne, that in caſe, from any unhappy, though unexpected event, you ſhould find it neceſſary to call for aſſiſtance from his Government, he do immediately ſend you the whole, or ſuch part of the regiment ſtationed in the Leeward Iſlands, as you ſhall require.

Beſides

Beſides the land forces to be employed upon this occaſion, it has alſo been thought expedient, that the commander of his Majeſty's naval force on the Leeward Iſland ſtation, ſhould give every aſſiſtance in his power; and I have ſignified his Majeſty's pleaſure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do inſtruct him accordingly.

It is the King's pleaſure, that this ſervice ſhould be carried on under your direction, aſſiſted by a Council, to be compoſed of the Governor of Dominica, the Commanders in Chief of the Land and Sea Forces, and the Lieutenant Governor and Council of St. Vincent, or ſuch of them as ſhall be preſent on the Iſland; and as the troops will arrive at a ſeaſon when it is much to be wiſhed they ſhould ſtay as ſhort a time as poſſible, I am to ſignify to you his Majeſty's commands, that you do, as ſoon as you conveniently can, repair to the Iſland of St. Vincent, in order to concert, in the manner above-mentioned, the ſteps it may be proper to take for carrying his Majeſty's intentions into execution, and to make ſuch preparations as may tend to forward and facilitate your operations, when the troops are collected together.

What thoſe ſteps ſhould be depends upon a variety of circumſtances, impoſſible to be known or decided upon here, and therefore you muſt, in that reſpect, be left to your own judgment and diſcretion. The King however hopes, that the Charibbs, when the reſolution of government to ſubdue them is known, and they ſee the force prepared for that purpoſe, will judge differently of their ſituation, and by a full ſubmiſſion, avoid both to themſelves, and to his Majeſty's troops, the diſagreeable conſequences of uſing that force; and it will be your care to endeavour, by every means in your power, to bring if poſſible this important buſineſs to that iſſue, and to induce the Charibbs to ſubmit themſelves to his Majeſty's government, to diſavow all attachment to the French, to be content with ſuch a portion of the iſland as ſhall be thought proper to be allotted

to them, and to conſent to ſuch conditions of peace and amity as ſhall be judged neceſſary for ſecuring their fidelity, and rendering them uſeful ſubjects inſtead of dangerous enemies. But if neither perſuaſion nor intreaty ſhall have the conſequence to produce theſe effects, you will then, and in that caſe only, have recourſe to force, avoiding however, even under that exigence, as much as poſſible any unneceſſary ſeverities, that may have the appearance of cruelty or oppreſſion.

You will perceive, from what I have already ſaid, that in whatever mode the ſubmiſſion of the Charibbs is obtained, whether by force or lenity, the deſirable object is to continue them on the Iſland, under conditions that may be a ſufficient pledge of ſafety, and with an allotment of ſuch a portion of the Iſland as ſhall be judged neceſſary.

It is under theſe hopes that I am commanded to recommend to your conſideration the conditions ſettled with the rebellious negroes in Jamaica, upon their reduction in 1738, and to ſend you the incloſed copy of the treaty made with them, which, allowing for difference of circumſtances, may poſſibly furniſh you with ſome uſeful hints.

After what I have ſaid, it is with great reluctance that I look forward to the conſideration of what may be fit to be done, if neither lenity nor force ſhall have the effect to induce ſuch a ſubmiſſion of theſe ſavages as may conſiſt with public ſafety: It is however an unavoidable conſideration, and it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, in conſequence of a repreſentation of ſeveral of the principal planters in St. Vincent (a copy of which I encloſe) that if neceſſity demand the removal of the Charibbs, you do take up ſuch veſſels as can be procured, to ſerve as tranſports for the conveyance of them to ſome unfrequented part of the coaſt of Africa, or to ſome deſert iſland adjacent thereto, care being taken that they be treated upon the voyage with every degree of humanity their ſituation will admit of; and that when put on ſhore, they be ſupplied with proviſions, and whatſoever

may be judged neceſſary to ſubſiſt them for a reaſonable time, and with ſuch tools and implements as may enable them to provide for their future ſubſiſtence. And for the more certain execution of this ſervice, I have ſignified his Majeſty's pleaſure to the Lords of the Admiralty, that they do inſtruct the Commander upon the Leeward Iſland ſtation, to appoint a proper convoy for the tranſports, in caſe the meaſure for the removal ſhall be adopted.

You will obſerve, Sir, that I have marked this Letter as *ſeparate and ſecret*, and I am perſuaded you will agree with me in opinion, of the propriety of avoiding, as much as poſſible, any diſcovery of our intentions, leſt thoſe infatuated ſavages ſhould become deſperate, and commit ſome fatal acts of hoſtility before the arrival of the troops.

The King has been pleaſed to attend to this danger, and has commanded me to ſignify his Majeſty's pleaſure to the Governor of Dominica, to ſend at leaſt three of the four companies, now ſtationed in that Iſland, to the Iſland of St. Vincent, without loſs of time; and his Majeſty hopes, that this additional ſtrength will enable you, at all events, to ſtand upon the defenſive.

My Letter to General Gage, a Copy of which I incloſe to you, will inform you, that it is his Majeſty's intention, that the two regiments to be ſent from North America, ſhould return as ſoon as the ſervice is completed, and I am to ſignify to you his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do give the neceſſary directions accordingly.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillſborough *to Lieutenant General* Gage.

SIR, WHITEHALL, April 18, 1772.

THE incloſed Copy of a repreſentation from the iſland of St. Vincent, and of a Letter to the Treaſury from the Commiſſioners, for the ſale of lands, will inform you of the danger to which that iſland is expoſed from the Charibbs, and the incloſed Copy of my Letter to Governor Leyborne will inform you of the meaſures his Majeſty has thought fit to adopt in conſequence thereof, and I am to ſignify to you his Majeſty's pleaſure, that you do, as ſoon as may be, ſend to St. Vincent's, two complete regiments of the troops under your command, leaving it entirely to you to name ſuch corps as you think proper, with an exception only to the Royal American regiment.

As the ſucceſs of this very important ſervice will depend in a great meaſure upon the diſcretion and ability of the officer who will have from ſeniority the command of the whole force to be employed, you will of courſe, in the choice of the regiments you are to ſend, have attention to this circumſtance. My Letter to Governor Leyborne is ſo full and explicit with regard to his Majeſty's wiſhes and intentions reſpecting this ſervice, as to make it unneceſſary for me to add any thing more to this ſeparate diſpatch, than to recommend to you, that the regiments to be ſent to St. Vincent's be ſupplied with every thing you ſhall think the nature of the ſervice may require, and may contribute to their comfort and convenience in ſo unhealthy a climate.

It is his Majeſty's intention, that theſe regiments ſhould return to North America ſo ſoon as the ſervice is compleated, and therefore you will take care that the contracts for the tranſports be made accordingly.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Lieutenant General Gage.

Letter

Letter from the Earl of Hillſborough *to Governor* Leyborne.

SIR, WHITEHALL, May 6, 1772.

INCLOSED I ſend you a duplicate of my ſeparate and ſecret diſpatch of the 18th of laſt month, reſpecting the meaſures to be taken with regard to the Black Charibbs in St. Vincent's, and I mention them now with this diſtinction, which I obſerve is not made in my laſt Letter, in order that you may be apprized, that it is not his Majeſty's intention that the directions, contained in that Letter, ſhould be conſidered as applicable to the Yellow Charibbs, who have, upon all occaſions, behaved themſelves ſubmiſſively to Government, and from whom I conceive the inhabitants have nothing to apprehend.

I am, &c.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Letter from Governor Leyborne *to the Earl of* Hillſborough, *dated at St.* Vincent, *Auguſt* 25, 1772.

My LORD,

I Am waiting with the greateſt impatience for the arrival of the troops from America, as we are now ready to begin our expedition againſt the Charibbs, and the weather is uncommonly fine for this ſeaſon of the year. I do not find there is any preparation made by theſe people for their defence, and I cannot but think they will ſubmit, though their declarations are otherwiſe. I mean to iſſue a proclamation as ſoon as the troops arrive, prior to the commencement of hoſtilities; but I have little

little expectation that any good will accrue from it; nothing will convince them, that his Majeſty has given orders for their reduction, but the marching of the troops. I am afraid ſome of our countrymen, that were purchaſers of the lands, and the French that live among them, have poſſeſſed the Charibbs with ideas, that this meaſure is adopted by the King's Governor, and the Commiſſioners for the ſales of lands, for their own private advantage, without any orders from his Majeſty, as this opinion ſeems to prevail very generally among them.

Some days ago I diſpatched the Government Sloop round the windward part of this Iſland, and ordered Captain Gordon, Chief Engineer, with the Chief Surveyor, to embark on board of her, in order to diſcover, if poſſible, ſome convenient place where ſhips might anchor, and that troops and artillery might land; they are not yet returned from this ſurvey, but I have this moment received a letter from Captain Gordon, an extract of which I have the honour to tranſmit to your Lordſhip, by which it appears, there is a hoſtile diſpoſition in theſe Savages, and a reſolution to oppoſe our landing. I gave orders by no means to moleſt them, and not to uſe force, but in their own defence. Upon Captain Gordon's getting from under the fire of the Charibbs, they hoiſted French colours, and gave three cheers.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

W. L. LEYBORNE.

Extract of a Letter from Henry Gordon, *Eſq; Chief Engineer, to Governor* Leyborne, *dated on Board the Sloop Portia, off Rawacka, Auguſt* 21, 1772.

I Think it neceſſary to inform your Excellency, that the veſſel, by the currents going to the weſtward, have not been able to get ſo high as point Eſpagnol until this morning. Yeſterday we went a-head in the boat, and viewed that Point and the bay to the weſtward of it; this we found a tolerable anchoring-place, and on the Point a favourable ſituation for any work.

This morning, being ſtill little wind, we proceeded in the boat as high as Rawacka, which has a good ſandy beech to land on. There are ſeveral Indian houſes on the ſmall plain, between the bank over the beech, and the high grounds, which are near half a mile diſtant, and this ground is well cultivated. When we got before theſe houſes, we ſaw the Indians running about, armed each with a gun and cutlaſs. I ordered the boat to ſtop at the ſouth-eaſt end of the bay, where we were in the reach of three Indians, to aſk them if we ſhould come on ſhore, which they refuſed to allow of. We then rowed on ſtill pretty nigh the ſhore near ſome rocks, and a ſmall riſing ground, where we diſcovered a conſiderable groupe of ſavages, who all gave a ſquall when we came in view, and immediately began to fire at the boat, ſome from the buſhes, and others from behind the rocks. We puſhed the boat from under their fire, without any of us being hurt.

This mark of the Indians bad diſpoſition, will cauſe us to keep a little further from the ſhore, and nigher the veſſels, and occaſion ſome greater delay in our proceeding.

Letter

Letter from Lord Barrington *to Governor* Leyborne.

SIR, WAR OFFICE, Sept. 8, 1772.

I Have the honour to ſignify to you the King's pleaſure, that in caſe the regiment which relieves the thirty-ſecond regiment of foot in the Iſland of St. Vincent, under your command, ſhould on their arrival be incomplete, and require any men to be turned over from the ſaid regiment, you do give the neceſſary orders on this head, agreeable to the eightieth ſection of the Mutiny bill.

Incloſed I ſend you one of the acts for the preſent year, for your further information.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir, &c.

BARRINGTON.

Governor Leyborne at Grenada.

Letter

Letter from Lord Barrington *to Lieutenant-Colonel* Dalrymple, *of the Fourteenth Regiment of Foot.*

SIR, WAR OFFICE, 29 Sept. 1772.

I Have the honour to ſend you herewith, by the King's order, a Letter of ſervice, in conſequence of which you will take rank, and be paid as Major General, during the continuance of your command againſt the Charibbs.

Finding by a Letter from General Gage, that the fourteenth and thirty-firſt regiments were provided with camp neceſſaries, it has been thought expedient to give them likewiſe to the ſixth regiment, which is going to relieve the thirty-ſecond. I ſhall likewiſe ſend conſigned to you, by the tranſports which carry that corps, camp neceſſaries ſufficient for two regiments, and which were originally intended immediately for North America, to be in ſtore there againſt any future occaſion, when they might be wanted. You will make uſe of them, if they ſhall be neceſſary for any of the other troops under your command; but it is the King's pleaſure, that after the war with the Charibbs is over, theſe camp neceſſaries ſhall be carefully packed, and ſent to General Gage; if they ſhall not be wanted at St. Vincent, you will then ſend them unopened to his Excellency by the firſt convenient opportunity.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir, &c.

BARRINGTON.

October 2d

P. S. The tranſports taken up for the conveyance of the ſixth regiment, not being able to take on board the tents and camp neceſſaries above-mentioned, it has been judged proper to ſend out a veſſel for this purpoſe, which will follow the regiment to St. Vincent's without delay.

Lieutenant Colonel Dalrymple of
the 6th regiment of Foot.

Letter from Lord Barrington *to the Earl of* Rochfort.

MY LORD, WAR OFFICE, Sept. 30, 1772.

TWO hundred tents being wanted for the uſe of the forces employed at St. Vincent's, againſt the Charibbs, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordſhip therewith, that you may be pleaſed to receive his Majeſty's commands thereupon, and ſignify the ſame to the Lieutenant General of the Ordnance, that the ſaid tents may be delivered accordingly out of his Majeſty's ſtores, for the uſe of the ſaid forces, and the expence thereof charged to the eſtimate of Ordnance for Parliament.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lord, &c.

BARRINGTON.

Earl of Rochford, &c. &c.

Letter from Mr. Chamier *to the* Commanding Officer *of the* 6th *Regiment.*

SIR, WAR OFFICE, October 1, 1772.

IN the abſence of the Secretary at War, who is gone into the country for a few days, I have the honour to ſignify to you his Majeſty's pleaſure, that the Sixth Regiment of Foot, under your command, do embark on board the veſſels provided to carry them to St. Vincent's, agreeable to their former orders, without waiting for the camp neceſſaries, &c. mentioned in the Secretary at War's Letter of the twenty-ſixth of laſt month, it being intended to ſend the camp neceſſaries, and ſome tents for the uſe of the forces at St. Vincent's, by another conveyance.

Incloſed I have the honour to ſend you, by this opportunity, his Majeſty's order for recruiting the Regiment in North America, if occaſion ſhall require.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

ANT. CHAMIER.

Officer commanding the Sixth Regiment of Foot, at Plymouth.

Letter

Mr. Chamier's *Letter to* John Trotter, Eſq.

SIR, WAR OFFICE, October 13, 1772.

TWO hundred compleat ſets of bedding being wanted for the ſervice of the Hoſpital at St. Vincent's, I am, in the abſence of the Secretary at War, to deſire you will provide the ſaid bedding, which is immediately to be ſhipped and ſent to that Iſland.

I am, Sir, &c.

ANT. CHAMIER.

John Trotter, Eſq.

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